

Current Affairs MCQs PDF - February, 2024



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1. Who has been appointed as the first woman chief secretary of Uttarakhand?

- [A] Radha Raturi
- [B] Kusum Kandwal
- [C] Kamini Gupta
- [D] Geeta Khanna

Answer: Radha Raturi

Radha Raturi, a senior IAS officer of the 1988 batch, has been appointed as the first woman chief secretary of Uttarakhand. She replaces Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and is the first woman to hold this top administrative post in the state. Raturi has an extensive administrative career, having served in undivided Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Initially aspiring to be a journalist, she eventually joined the IAS, succeeding in her third attempt at the UPSC exam.

2. Salher fort, Shivneri fort and Panhala fort, recently seen in news, are located in which Indian state?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Rajasthan

Answer: Maharashtra

India has proposed the "Maratha Military Landscapes of India" for UNESCO World Heritage List recognition in 2024-25. Developed between the 17th and 19th centuries, these military landscapes showcase an exceptional fortification system envisioned by Maratha rulers. The network of forts, spanning the Sahyadri mountain ranges, Konkan Coast, Deccan Plateau, and Eastern Ghats, integrates distinctive landscapes. Notable components include Salher fort, Shivneri fort, Raigad, Vijaydurg, and others. The Maratha Military ideology, dating from the 17th century, continued until Peshwa rule in 1818 CE.

3. Where was the first 'National Conference on Promotion of Seaweed Cultivation' held?

- [A] Kutch
- [B] Vadodara
- [C] Ahmedabad
- [D] Surat

Answer: Kutch

The National Conference on Promotion of Seaweed Cultivation, chaired by the Union Minister of Fisheries in Koteswar, Kutch, Gujarat, showcased diverse seaweed cultivation



methods (Monoline, tube-net, and rafts). CMFRI, CSMCRI, and NFDB demonstrated these techniques. Seaweeds, macroscopic algae lacking true roots and leaves, thrive in marine and coastal waters. They are classified into four groups based on pigments that absorb specific wavelengths of light. The event aimed at fostering seaweed development and enhancing awareness about its potential in India.

4. According to the 'Solar Policy 2024', what is the targeted installed capacity of solar power in Delhi **by 2027?**

- [A] 5500 MW
- [B] 3500 MW
- [C] **4500 MW**
- [D] 2500 MW

Answer: 4500 MW

The Delhi government has launched the Delhi Solar Policy 2024 to boost solar power adoption. Residents can install rooftop solar panels, leading to zero electricity bills and potential income from excess power sales to the grid. The policy targets 4500 MW of solar power by 2027, up from the previous goal of 1500 MW. Stemming from the 2016 policy, which yielded 1500 MW capacity, the new policy aims to curb air pollution, cut electricity costs, and promote sustainable energy in Delhi.

5. Agasthyagama edge, which was seen in the news, belongs to which one of the following species?

- [A] Snake
- [B] **Kangaroo lizard**
- [C] Wolf spider
- [D] Frog

Answer: Kangaroo lizard

Scientists recently discovered a new kangaroo lizard species, Agasthyagama edge, in the Western Ghats. Named after the EDGE program, it's the second in the Agasthyagama genus. Found in Kulamavu, Idukki, it belongs to the Agamidae family. These terrestrial reptiles, lacking a fifth toe for climbing, prefer leaf-covered areas. Averaging 4.3 cm in length, they are fast runners feeding on small insects, and they hide within dry leaves to avoid predators. The species is significant for its distinctiveness and global endangerment.

6. "Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril" (Come Look for You, In Your Village) scheme, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?

- [A] Kerala
- [B] **Tamil Nadu**
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Karnataka

Answer: Tamil Nadu

The Government of Tamil Nadu introduces the Ungalai Thedi Ungal Ooril Scheme 2024, offering citizens monthly access to state government schemes and scholarships. This



initiative aims to review project performance, inspect infrastructure, and address public concerns, ensuring effective implementation of government programs.

7. Recently, which neurotechnology company has embedded the first computer chip in a human brain?

- [A] **Neuralink** (Owned by Elon Musk)
- [B] Kernel
- [C] Blackrock Neurotech
- [D] Neurable

Answer: Neuralink

Neuralink is the first company to implant a computer chip in a human brain. Neuralink is a neurotechnology company founded in 2016 by Musk and seven other scientists and engineers. The company's implant, known as the "Link," is a small device that's surgically placed inside the human brain. Neuralink says its device can interpret neural activity so a person can operate a computer or smartphone by simply thinking. The company ultimately hopes to use the brain-machine interface to restore sensory and motor functions in people with disabilities, treat neurological conditions like dementia and depression, and even enable telepathic communication.

8. What is the IMF's estimated forecast for India's GDP growth in the current financial year?

- [A] 6.1 %
- [B] 6.2 %
- [C] **6.7 %**
- [D] 6.4 %

Answer: 6.7 %

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has upgraded India's GDP growth forecast to 6.7% for the current fiscal year, a 40 basis points rise from the previous estimate of 6.3%. This positive revision is credited to strong public investment and positive labor market trends, as outlined in the latest World Economic Outlook report.

9. Which one of the following is the mascot for the Khelo India Winter Games 2024?

- [A] Bengal Tiger
- [B] **Snow Leopard**
- [C] Hangul
- [D] Arctic Fox

Answer: Snow Leopard

The mascot for the 2024 Khelo India Winter Games is the snow leopard, named "Sheen-e-She" or "Shan" in the Ladakh region. The mascot was chosen to reflect the region's biodiversity and tradition. The games will be held in Ladakh from February 2–6, and in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir from February 21–25. The mascot symbolizes the spirit of the games and highlights the need to conserve this endangered species.

10. Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, recently seen in the



news, are located in which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Karnataka

Answer: Tamil Nadu

India has included five additional wetlands in the Ramsar Convention's global list of significant wetlands, bringing the nation's total to 80. Announced by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, the newly added wetlands include Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve, Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, and Aghanashini Estuary from Karnataka, along with Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary and Longwood Shola Reserve Forest from Tamil Nadu. This designation underscores India's commitment to preserving vital waterlogged ecosystems.

11. Martand sun temple, recently seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

- [A] Ladakh
- [B] Rajasthan
- [C] Jammu & Kashmir
- [D] Madhya Pradesh

Answer: Jammu & Kashmir

Members of a Hindutva group recently breached the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)-protected Martand Sun Temple, a historic Hindu temple near Anantnag in the Kashmir Valley. Built in the 8th century by King Lalitaditya Muktapida, it blends Kashmiri, Gupta, Chinese, Gandhara, Roman, and Greek architectural styles. Spanning 32,000 sq. ft., the stone temple features an 86-column courtyard, a 60-ft vimana with intricate carvings, and 84 smaller shrines. Sultan Sikandar Shah Miri is believed to have demolished it in the 14th century.



12. Recently, which five countries officially joined the BRICS group?

- [A] Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, Iran & Ethiopia
- [B] Argentina, Chile, Iraq, Sudan & Somalia
- [C] Peru, Namibia, Guyana, Bulgaria & Turkey
- [D] Mali, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos & Bhutan

Answer: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, UAE, Iran & Ethiopia

Five countries officially joined the BRICS group: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Iran, and Ethiopia. The countries were invited to join the group in August 2023, after the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa. Argentina was also invited but backed out at the end of December. BRICS is an acronym for the emerging national economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The term was originally coined in 2001 as "BRIC" by the Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill.

13. 'Economics of the Food System Transformation' report, recently seen in the news, is released by which organization?



- [A] International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- [B] Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- [C] Food System Economics Commission (FSEC)
- [D] World Bank

Answer: Food System Economics Commission (FSEC)

The Economics of the Food System Transformation report is a global policy report from the Food System Economics Commission (FSEC). The report estimates that transforming the global food system could create economic benefits of 5–10 trillion USD per year. The report also states that the policies and implementation to achieve these transformations would cost only 0.2–0.4% of global GDP. The report discusses the unsustainable trajectory of the global food system and the potential economic benefits of a transformation. It also states that transforming food systems worldwide could help address global climate, nature, and health emergencies.

14. Which Indian state was the theme state of World's Largest International Crafts Fair, Surajkund Mela 2024?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Rajasthan
- [C] Madhya Pradesh
- [D] Maharashtra

Answer: Gujarat

The 37th Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2024 will feature Gujarat as the theme state. The fair will take place from February 2–18, 2024 in Surajkund, Faridabad. The fair complex, including decorations and stalls, will reflect the rich heritage of Gujarati culture. The event will also feature artists and cultural groups from 20 Indian states and multiple countries. The Surajkund Mela is organized annually by the Haryana Tourism Department. The town of Surajkund is known for its picturesque surroundings and is easily accessible from Delhi and other major cities in the region.

15. Where was the 12th India-Oman 'Joint Military Cooperation Committee' meeting held?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Jaipur
- [C] Mumbai
- [D] Muscat

Answer: Muscat

The 12th India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting was held in Muscat. The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Secretary General Dr. Mohammed Bin Naseer Bin Ali Al Zaabi. During the meeting, India and Oman signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate in new areas of defense engagement, including the procurement of military equipment. The meeting also covered joint exercises, information sharing, oceanography, shipbuilding, and MRO.

16. What is 'eROSITA', recently mentioned in the news?



- [A] Drone
- [B] X-ray telescope
- [C] Artificial Intelligence tool
- [D] Submarine

Answer: X-ray telescope

The German eROSITA consortium has released data from the first all-sky survey conducted by the eROSITA X-ray telescope on the Russian-German SRG observatory. eROSITA stands for extended ROentgen Survey with an Imaging Telescope Array and is the main instrument on the Russian spacecraft Spektrum-Roentgen-Gamma (SRG). Launched in July 2019, it maps the entire celestial sphere every six months, with eight surveys planned until December 2023. The survey aims to provide insights into various astrophysical phenomena, including supermassive black hole evolution and X-ray-emitting solar system bodies.

17. **Sphaerotheca varshaabhu**, recently seen in news, belongs to which one of the following species?

- [A] Frog
- [B] Fish
- [C] Spider
- [D] Snake

Answer: Frog

Researchers have discovered a new frog species, *Sphaerotheca varshaabhu*, thriving in Bengaluru's urban landscape. Named for its rain-loving behavior, the amphibian emerges from burrows during early showers. With unique characteristics, it adapts to urban challenges, displaying behaviors and physical attributes that set it apart. The team employed genetic analysis, morphological studies, and bioacoustics to confirm its distinctiveness from known frog species.

18. C- CARES web portal, recently seen in the news, is associated with which sector?

- [A] Petroleum sector
- [B] Renewable energy sector
- [C] Coal sector
- [D] Agriculture sector

Answer: Coal sector

Recently, Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi launched the C-CARES web portal for the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO). Developed by C-DAC, it aims to digitize records and streamline processes for 3.3 lakh Provident Fund subscribers and 6.1 lakh pensioners in the coal sector. The portal enables online settlement of claims, ensuring transparency, faster processing, and better record management. Aligned with the vision of Digital India, it signifies a significant leap towards efficient and transparent operations in the coal sector.

19. **Mesolithic era rock paintings** have recently been discovered in which state?



- [A] **Telangana**
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Uttar Pradesh

Answer: Telangana

Recently, Mesolithic rock paintings were unearthed at Sitamma Loddi, Gattusingaram, in Telangana's Peddapalli district. Discovered on a hillock in a dense forest, the paintings adorned a **1,000-foot-long, 50-foot-high sandstone** rock shelter. The Mesolithic, or Middle Stone Age, bridged the gap between the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods, spanning approximately **12,000-10,000 years ago**. Notable for the transition from large chipped stone tools to microliths, small tools affixed to bone or wood handles for making implements like saws and sickles, it marked a pivotal era in human cultural development.

20. What is Fentanyl, recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] **A type of drug**
- [B] Invasive plant
- [C] Artificial intelligence tool
- [D] Asteroid

Answer: A type of drug

A recent discussion between the United States and China have focused on joint efforts to combat the influx of fentanyl into the U.S. Fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid (a type of drug), has wreaked havoc in America and is linked to ingredients produced in China. The drug, 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine, is FDA (Food and Drug Administration) -approved for severe pain but is also illegally manufactured and sold recreationally, often mixed with other drugs, posing a high risk of addiction and fatality in large doses or when combined.

21. What are Tidal Disruption Events (TDEs), recently seen in the news?

- [A] Events related to ocean tides
- [B] **Astronomical phenomena involving a star and a black hole**
- [C] Weather disturbances on exoplanets
- [D] Supernova explosions

Answer: Astronomical phenomena involving a star and a black hole

An international team of astronomers recently observed AT 2023clx, the nearest Tidal Disruption Event (TDE) to Earth. TDEs happen when a star comes too close to a supermassive black hole, torn apart by tidal forces. The resulting debris falls onto the black hole, emitting radiation that indicates a TDE's occurrence. This international team's multi-wavelength observations enhance our understanding of these celestial events.

22. What is the main objective of 'Ministry of Education-AICTE Investor Network', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Providing infrastructure mainly in rural areas
- [B] Digitalize the education sector



[C] **Strengthening the support ecosystem for edu-tech innovators**

[D] Promoting yoga education to students

Answer: Strengthening the support ecosystem for edu-tech innovators

Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the 'Ministry of Education – AICTE Investor Network,' a collaborative effort by AICTE and the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell. The initiative aims to boost innovation and entrepreneurship in education by offering financial support, mentoring, and strategic guidance to early-stage student or faculty-led startups. Aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, the network seeks to encourage private investment, empower educational institutions as innovation hubs, and foster a better environment for startup development.

★ 23. Which state of India has recorded the highest number of Ramsar sites?

[A] Kerala

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] **Tamil Nadu**

[D] Gujarat

Answer: Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu leads India in environmental conservation with 16 Ramsar sites, the highest nationwide. The recent additions, Longwood Shola Reserve Forest and Karaivetti Bird Sanctuary, underscore the state's commitment to ecological preservation. Ramsar sites, designated under an international treaty, highlight the ecological importance, biodiversity richness, and their crucial role in supporting human life and environmental health. Tamil Nadu's achievement reflects a robust strategy for sustainable wetland use and underscores the government's dedication to biodiversity protection.

24. Which Union Ministry implemented the 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 scheme', recently seen in the news?

[A] Ministry of Rural Development

[B] **Ministry of Women and Child Development**

[C] Ministry of Agriculture

[D] Ministry of Home Affairs

Answer: Ministry of Women and Child Development

The budget allocation for Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 in 2023-24 is ₹25,449 crore, which is a 6% increase from the revised estimates of ₹23,913 crore for 2022-23. In 2024, the budget estimate is ₹20,554 crore, which is 1.4% higher than the revised allocation of ₹20,263 crore for 2023. Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is a part of the Mission Poshan 2.0, which was launched in February 2021 by Finance Minister. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is responsible for implementing this scheme.

25. In the interim budget 2024-25, which of the following crops are taken into consideration for 'Atmanirbhar Oil Seeds Abhiyan'?

[A] **Mustard, Groundnut, Sesame, Soybean & Sunflower**

[B] Palm, Coconut, Canola & Castor



[C] Peanuts, cotton & flax

[D] Rapeseed & Palm

Answer: Mustard, Groundnut, Sesame, Soybean & Sunflower

Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, highlighted farmer's welfare and rural demand in the interim budget 2024-25. The budget emphasizes achieving 'atmanirbharta' in oil seeds, outlining strategies like research for high-yielding varieties, modern farming techniques adoption, market linkages, procurement, value addition, and crop insurance for mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, and sunflower.

26. Which one of the following city is venue of the India's first beachside startup festival 'Emerge 2024'?

[A] Udupi

[B] Mangaluru

[C] Bengaluru

[D] Shivamogga

Answer: Mangaluru

Emerge-2024 is India's first beachside startup festival, taking place February 16-18, 2024 at Tannirbhavi Beach in Mangaluru. The festival is expected to feature more than 100 startups, 50 investors, and around 1,000 participants.

27. Darlipali thermal power plant, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

[A] Odisha

[B] Gujarat

[C] Karnataka

[D] Madhya Pradesh

Answer: Odisha

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated NTPC Ltd's Darlipali thermal power plant (1,600 MW), Rourkela PP-II expansion project (250 MW), and laid the foundation stone for Talcher 2x660 MW in Odisha, with a total investment of Rs 28,978 crore. Darlipali, a pit-head station, has supply agreements with multiple states. The Rourkela project supports the steel plant, while Talcher's 660 MW will cater 50% to Odisha and the rest to Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Assam. The government encourages coal-based capacity additions due to rising energy demand.

28. 'Electricity 2024' report, recently seen in the news, is released by which organization?

[A] International Energy Agency

[B] International Development Association

[C] Organization for Economic Development

[D] World Bank

Answer: International Energy Agency

The International Energy Agency's "Electricity 2024" report on India's energy future reveals key trends: persistent coal reliance, a surge in renewable energy (44% of total capacity), and nuclear power's promising growth. Despite India's net-zero target by 2070,



coal is projected to meet 68% of electricity demand by 2026. Renewable generation stabilizes with 21% in 2023, and hydropower faces a 15% fall due to changing weather. India aims to triple nuclear capacity by 2032, with 4 GW entering commercial operation by 2026, contributing to a global 10% increase.

29. U-WIN Platform, recently seen in the news, is associated with which one of the following?

- [A] Loan for Startups
- [B] Digitization of India's Universal Immunization Programme
- [C] Promoting Excellence in Sports and Wellness
- [D] Loan window for Women Entrepreneurs

Answer: Digitization of India's Universal Immunization Programme

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman revealed the swift implementation of the U-WIN platform in the Union interim Budget 2024-2025 to streamline immunization management nationwide. The U-WIN portal is integral to digitizing India's Universal Immunization Programme, currently undergoing pilot testing in two districts of every state and union territory, marking a significant step toward enhancing healthcare accessibility and efficiency.

30. What is the total estimated expenditure in the Budget for FY 2024-25?

- [A] Rs 47.66 lakh crore
- [B] Rs 33.56 lakh crore
- [C] Rs 48.20 lakh crore
- [D] Rs 45.15 lakh crore

Answer: Rs 47.66 lakh crore

The 2024-25 government budget is projected at Rs 47, 65,768 crore (47.66 lakh crore), indicating a 6% rise from the revised 2023-24 estimate. Anticipated growth includes a 3.2% increase in revenue expenditure and a significant 16.9% surge in capital expenditure, reflecting fiscal priorities and economic strategies for the upcoming year.



31. Which one of the following best describes the term 'Blue Economy 2.0', recently seen in the budget 2024?

- [A] Sustainable development related to oceans, seas, and coasts
- [B] Providing new agricultural practice methods
- [C] Improving urban infrastructure
- [D] Renewable energy sources

Answer: Sustainable development related to oceans, seas, and coasts

The Interim Budget prioritizes the advancement of 'Blue Economy 2.0,' concentrating on sustainable development concerning oceans, seas, and coasts. Key initiatives include schemes for coastal restoration, aquaculture, and mariculture, with an integrated approach. Plans encompass setting up five integrated aquaparks and enhancing the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for increased productivity, exports, and job creation. The Blue Economy is defined by the World Bank as the sustainable use of ocean



resources for economic growth and improved livelihoods, preserving ocean ecosystem health.

32. What are 'Manatees', recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] Large aquatic mammals
- [B] Invasive plants
- [C] Asteroid
- [D] Ancient irrigation system

Answer: Large aquatic mammals

A record number of manatees recently gathered at a Florida state park. Manatees, often called "sea cows," are large aquatic mammals belonging to the Sirenia group, which also includes dugongs. While they share similarities in appearance and behavior, the key difference lies in their tails – manatees have paddle-shaped tails, while dugongs have fluked tails, resembling whales. Manatees inhabit shallow coastal areas and rivers, with three species identified: Amazonian, African, and Caribbean manatees. They are listed as 'Vulnerable' by the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species

33. Wheat Blast, recently seen in the news, is a disease of wheat crop caused by which one of the following?

- [A] Fungus
- [B] Bacteria
- [C] Helminths
- [D] Virus

Answer: Fungus

Researchers modeling future wheat blast spread predict a 13% global wheat production reduction by 2050 due to the fast-acting fungal disease caused by *Magnaporthe oryzae*. Wheat blast affects various grasses, especially wheat, barley, lolium, and rice. It spreads through infected seeds and spores, thriving in warm, humid conditions. Resistant to fungicides, it induces bleaching, lower yields, and poor seed quality, leading to crop burning as a preventive measure. The severity necessitates constant vigilance in regions with susceptible climates.

34. What is the primary objective of 'GHAR Portal', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Monitor and track the restoration of historical monuments
- [B] Digitally track and monitor the restoration and repatriation of children
- [C] To offer healthcare services to children
- [D] To provide real time updates about upcoming disasters

Answer: Digitally track and monitor the restoration and repatriation of children

The GHAR (Go Home and Re-Unite) Portal, developed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR), facilitates the digital monitoring and repatriation of children under the Juvenile Justice Act. It expedites repatriation by tracking cases, transferring them to relevant authorities, and facilitating communication with State Governments for translators or experts. Child Welfare Committees use the portal's



checklist to identify children in need, linking them to government schemes for family strengthening during restoration.

35. Recently, which state government police adopted Self-Balancing e-scooters For Smart Patrols?

- [A] Uttarakhand
- [B] Himachal Pradesh
- [C] Punjab
- [D] Uttar Pradesh

Answer: Uttarakhand

In February 2024, the Uttarakhand Police adopted self-balancing electric scooters to patrol the streets of Haridwar. The scooters are part of a new law enforcement method and are intended to improve safety for locals and tourists. The scooters are donated by Utkarsh Small Finance Bank and are intended to be used in crowded and narrow areas.

36. Recently, who has taken charge as the Chief Hydrographer to the Government of India?

- [A] Adhir Arora
- [B] Karambir Singh
- [C] Lochan Singh Pathania
- [D] Sunil Lamba

Answer: Lochan Singh Pathania

Vice Admiral Lochan Singh Pathania is the Chief Hydrographer of the Indian government. Pathania is a Hydrography Specialist who has a naval career spanning over four decades. He joined the Indian Navy in 1990 in the Executive branch. He has commanded the ships Darshak and Sandhayak, and has carried out hydrographic surveys across India and the Indian Ocean Region.

37. Who has been selected as torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- [A] Saina Nehwal
- [B] Neeraj Chopra
- [C] Abhinav Bindra
- [D] P V Sindhu

Answer: Abhinav Bindra

Abhinav Bindra, a former shooter and India's first Olympic gold medalist, has been selected as a torchbearer for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Bindra is one of 11,000 torchbearers selected throughout France for the 2024 Olympics. The 2024 Olympic torch relay will start in France on May 8, 2024, with the flame arriving in Marseille before traveling across France for 68 days.

38. Which state government has recently suspended five officers for negligence in implementing the IEDSS scheme?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Maharashtra



[C] Gujarat

[D] Uttar Pradesh

Answer: Karnataka

The Karnataka Government recently suspended five officers for negligence in implementing the Inclusive Education for Disabled at Secondary Stage (IEDSS) scheme. Launched in 2009-10, IEDSS replaces the Integrated Education for Disabled Children (IEDC). The scheme aims to provide inclusive and enabling secondary education for students with disabilities after eight years of elementary schooling. It covers various disabilities and prioritizes girls, emphasizing the establishment of Model Inclusive Schools in each state under the scheme.

39. Endangered Forest Owlet, recently sighted at which tiger reserve?

[A] Pench Tiger Reserve

[B] Melghat Tiger Reserve

[C] Bor Tiger Reserve

[D] Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve

Answer: Melghat Tiger Reserve

The endangered Forest Owlet, *Athene blewitti*, was recently sighted three times in the Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra. Initially described in 1873, it was considered extinct after 1884 but rediscovered in 1997. Endemic to central India, it's observed in various states. Inhabiting diverse ecosystems, it's small, stocky, with distinctive features. Diurnal and hunting during the day, it preys on rodents, reptiles, and insects. With an IUCN Red List status of Endangered and CITES Appendix I, conservation efforts are crucial.

40. What is 'Trichoglossum', recently mentioned in the news?

[A] Ancient irrigation system

[B] Anti ship missiles

[C] A genus of fungus

[D] Asteroid

Answer: A genus of fungus

Researchers discovered a new fungus species, *Trichoglossum syamviswanathii*, in Kerala. *Trichoglossum* is a genus of fungus known as "hairy earth tongues" due to its filamentous structure. The fungus, with 55 identified genera and 21 recognized species globally, exhibits saprotrophic behavior and can be found in plant roots as endophytes. Predominantly distributed in tropical and temperate forests across five continents, these fungi play a crucial role in decomposing organic matter.

41. Lake Rotorua, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

[A] France

[B] New Zealand

[C] Australia

[D] Russia

Answer: New Zealand



New maps reveal a hidden hydrothermal system under Lake Rotorua, at a dormant volcano's heart in New Zealand. Hydrothermal systems, common near convergent plate boundaries and mid-ocean ridges, need fluids, heat, and permeability. Seawater percolates through oceanic crust, heating to 350-400°C, producing chemically modified hydrothermal fluid. Ejected to the seafloor, it forms chimney-like deposits, supporting deep-sea chemosynthetic communities. This discovery highlights the dynamic geological processes beneath the lake, providing insights into hydrothermal systems' intricate workings.

42. What is the primary focus of the Gamma Ray Astronomy PeV EnergieS phase-3 (GRAPES-3) project, recently seen in news?

- [A] To study cosmic rays
- [B] To study exoplanet
- [C] Investigating dark matter
- [D] Measuring Earth's natural resources

Answer: To study cosmic rays

The GRAPES-3 experiment, situated in Ooty, India and operated by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, made a significant discovery in the cosmic-ray proton spectrum, revealing a new feature at 166 TeV. Equipped with air shower detectors and a large muon detector, GRAPES-3 aims to investigate the origin, acceleration, and propagation of cosmic rays, including the existence of the "Knee" in their energy spectrum. It also explores the production of highest-energy cosmic rays, astronomy of multi-TeV γ -rays, and the impact of the Sun on Earth.



43. Recently, which state cabinet approved the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) report?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Uttarakhand
- [D] Himachal Pradesh

Answer: Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand's Cabinet, under Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has approved the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) bill—a historic decision. Based on committee recommendations, the bill aims to standardize civil laws, transcending religious affiliations. The proposed measures include banning polygamy and child marriage, establishing a common marriageable age, and enforcing uniform grounds and procedures for divorce, promoting legal standardization.

44. Recently, which country has become the first European country to accept Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payment system?

- [A] Germany
- [B] Italy
- [C] France
- [D] Spain



Answer: France

The formal launch of India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) occurred during Republic Day celebrations in Paris, with French President Emmanuel Macron present. The Indian Embassy introduced UPI at the Eiffel Tower, marking its global expansion. Developed by the National Payments Corporation of India in 2016, UPI consolidates multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application, offering a convenient system for managing diverse accounts on one platform.

45. Intelligent Transportation System Endeavor (InTranSE) program, recently seen in the news, comes under which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- [B] Ministry of Defence
- [C] Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
- [D] Ministry of Communication

Answer: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology

At the "Digital India FutureLABS Summit 2024," three indigenous technologies – Thermal camera, CMOS camera, and Fleet Management System – developed by CDAC Thiruvananthapuram under the InTranSE Program of MeitY were transferred to 12 industries. The InTranSE initiative, led by the Ministry of Electronics & IT, collaborates with academic institutes and R&D centers to transform Intelligent Transportation Systems. The program aims to enhance traffic efficiency, optimize infrastructure usage, provide advance traffic information, reduce travel time, and improve the safety and comfort of commuters.

46. What is 'Obelisks', recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] A geological formation
- [B] Ancient architectural style
- [C] Class of virus-like entities
- [D] Asteroid

Answer: Class of virus-like entities

Scientists recently discovered a novel class of virus-like entities called obelisks within the human body. These RNA-based organisms, around 1,000 nucleotides in size, form rod-like structures and differ from known biological agents. Larger than typical genetic molecules like plasmids, obelisks occupy a unique niche between viruses and viroids. Present in diverse areas of the human body, their hosts and potential presence in bacteria remain unidentified, adding intrigue to this recently unveiled class of organisms.

47. Recently, which space agency has identified a potential "super-Earth" that could harbor life?

- [A] NASA
- [B] ISRO
- [C] ROCOSMAS
- [D] ESA



Answer: NASA

NASA has identified a potential "super-Earth," TOI-715 b, situated 137 light-years away. This distant planet orbits a small, reddish star within the conservative habitable zone, indicating the possibility of liquid water. TOI-715 b is 1.5 times wider than Earth, completes an orbit in just 19 days, and may have a companion Earth-sized planet. NASA's findings suggest conditions for surface water, pending atmospheric factors. This groundbreaking discovery opens avenues for further investigation into extraterrestrial life.

48. Which Russian cosmonaut recently set the record for spending the maximum time in space?

- [A] Sergei Krikalev
- [B] Yuri Malenchenko
- [C] Yelena Serova
- [D] Oleg Kononenko

Answer: Oleg Kononenko

Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko set the world record for the most time spent in space, breaking the record of fellow Russian cosmonaut Gennady Padalka. Kononenko is 59 years old and has spent more than 878 days and 12 hours in space. Padalka's record was 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds, set during five space missions until 2017. Kononenko works out regularly to deal with the physical effects of weightlessness. He has said that he doesn't feel deprived or isolated, but that he realizes how much life he missed out on when he returns to Earth.

49. Who has been appointed as the new Advocate General of Rajasthan?

- [A] Ashok Kumar Jain
- [B] Rajendra Prasad Gupta
- [C] N.M. Lodha
- [D] Praveer Bhatnagar

Answer: Rajendra Prasad Gupta

Rajendra Prasad Gupta is the new Advocate General of Rajasthan. In India, the Advocate General is a legal advisor to the state government. The Governor of each state appoints an Advocate General who is qualified to be appointed as a Judge of a High Court.

50. Where was the Centre of Excellence (CoE) on E-waste Management inaugurated?

- [A] C-MET, Hyderabad
- [B] C-MET, Maharashtra
- [C] C-MET, Thrissur
- [D] C-MET, Lucknow

Answer: C-MET, Hyderabad

The Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology (C-MET) is an autonomous scientific society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in India. It operates three R&D laboratories in Pune, Hyderabad, and Thrissur, focusing on critical electronic materials. C-MET, Hyderabad, is dedicated to developing advanced electronic and strategic



materials. A major focus is environmentally friendly e-waste recycling technologies to address India's 3.2 million tons of electronic waste, promoting resource efficiency. C-MET's Centre of Excellence on E-waste Management, inaugurated under PPP, pioneers recycling technologies for various electronic components.

51. Dusted Apollo, recently seen in the news, belongs to which one of the following species?

- [A] Butterfly
- [B] Frog
- [C] Fish
- [D] Spider

Answer: Butterfly

The rare Dusted Apollo butterfly (*Parnassius stenosemus*) was recently spotted and photographed for the first time in Himachal Pradesh, extending its known distribution from Ladakh to West Nepal. Resembling Ladakh Banded Apollo, it distinguishes with a complete discal band on the upper forewing. The sighting of the protected Regal Apollo (*Parnassius charltonius*) also occurred, highlighting the rich diversity of Apollo butterflies in the region. Urgent conservation is needed as Apollos face commercial poaching threats, emphasizing the importance of community awareness and establishing conservation measures like butterfly parks.

52. Thrips Parvispinus, recently seen in the news, belongs to which one of the following species?

- [A] Invasive pest species
- [B] Butterfly
- [C] Spider
- [D] Fish

Answer: Invasive pest species

The Union Agriculture Minister revealed in Rajya Sabha that Thrips Parvispinus, an invasive pest, may have displaced native chilli thrips in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. This polyphagous pest affects various crops, including drumstick, pigeon pea, and mango. Originally reported in India in 2015, Thrips Parvispinus has spread globally, causing economic losses and viral infections. The pest's infestation, exacerbated by heavy rainfall, leads to flower drop, reducing fruit production, posing a threat to horticultural crops amid changing agricultural practices and climate conditions.

53. Hage Geingob, who passed away recently, was a President of which country?

- [A] Angola
- [B] Botswana
- [C] Zambia
- [D] Namibia

Answer: Namibia

Namibia's President, Hage Geingob, has died at 82 following cancer treatment. The first



prime minister post-independence, he became Namibia's third president in 2014, securing re-election in 2019. Geingob, a key figure since independence from South Africa, held the record for Namibia's longest-serving prime minister before assuming the presidency. His passing marks the end of a significant era in Namibian political history.

54. Which one of the following is the best description of 'ABHYAS', recently seen in the news?

- [A] A Transit method to detect planets
- [B] A high-speed expendable aerial target
- [C] A satellite
- [D] A next generation Stealth aircraft

Answer: A high-speed expendable aerial target

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently achieved success with four flight trials of 'ABHYAS,' a high-speed expendable aerial target. Developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, ABHYAS serves as a realistic threat scenario for weapon systems practice and validates Armed Forces equipment for aerial engagement. It features an autonomous flying design, an indigenously made autopilot, and a laptop-based Ground Control System for integration and analysis.

55. Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar programme, recently seen in the news, comes under which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Finance
- [B] Ministry of Rural Development
- [C] Ministry of Culture
- [D] Ministry of Defence

Answer: Ministry of Culture

The Mera Gaon Meri Dharohar (MGMD) program, initiated by the Ministry of Culture, aims to culturally map India's 6.5 lakh villages, encompassing 29 States and 7 Union Territories. Launched on July 27, 2023, under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping, it compiles information on seven categories, from arts and crafts to historical and ecological aspects. The virtual platform enables people to explore India's rich cultural heritage, fostering appreciation, economic growth, social harmony, and artistic development in rural communities.

56. Which country recently adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing?

- [A] Angola
- [B] Gabon
- [C] Cameroon
- [D] Rwanda

Answer: Cameroon

Cameroon recently adopted the Nagoya Protocol, a global agreement enforcing access and benefit-sharing obligations outlined in the Convention on Biological Diversity. Adopted in 2010 and effective since 2014, the Protocol establishes a legal framework



facilitating fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resource utilization. It supports biodiversity-based research, ensuring researchers access resources for biotechnology while indigenous communities receive fair returns, respecting the value of traditional knowledge linked to genetic resources.

57. What is the IUCN status of 'Black-Necked Crane', recently seen in the news?

[A] Near Threatened

[B] Vulnerable

[C] Endangered

[D] Critically endangered

Answer: Near Threatened

The government has undertaken crucial measures to safeguard the Black-Necked Crane, as revealed by the Union Minister of State for Environment. This medium-sized crane species, residing in high-altitude wetlands of the Tibetan plateau, faces threats like habitat loss due to climate change, agricultural changes, pollution, and environmental contamination. With a distribution in India, China, and Bhutan, it holds a Near Threatened status on the IUCN list and is listed in Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, and Appendix I of CITES.

58. Aldabra giant tortoise, recently seen in the news, is endemic to which country?

[A] Djibouti

[B] Seychelles

[C] Kenya

[D] Tanzania

Answer: Seychelles

A six-year project aims to reintroduce the second-largest land tortoise species, native to Madagascar, to the wild after 600 years. Evolving from ancestors on the island, it migrated to the Seychelles four million years ago. The Aldabra giant tortoise (*Aldabrachelys gigantea*) is endemic to the Aldabra Atoll in the Seychelles, an archipelago nation in the western Indian Ocean. Their habitats range from scrub forests to coastal areas, and conservation efforts classify them as vulnerable (IUCN) and listed under CITES Appendix II.

59. Who won the 87 kg Greco-Roman title at the National Wrestling Championships 2024?

[A] Yogeshwar Dutt

[B] Sunil Kumar

[C] Ravi Dahiya

[D] Saurav Gurjar

Answer: Sunil Kumar

Sunil Kumar won the 87 kg Greco-Roman title at the 2024 National Wrestling Championships, which took place in Jaipur, Rajasthan on February 4, 2024. Kumar, an Asian Games bronze medalist, beat Manoj Kumar 9-1 to win the title.

60. Valparaiso region, recently seen in the news due to forest fires, is located in which



country?

[A] Brazil

[B] Peru

[C] Chile

[D] Argentina

Answer: Chile

At least 112 people have died in the Valparaíso region of Chile due to fast-moving wildfires. The fires are thought to be the deadliest ever recorded in Chile. The government is investigating whether some of the fires were deliberately started. The fires have also destroyed an estimated 3,000 to 6,000 homes. The fires are thought to be the result of a week of record-setting temperatures caused by El Niño. High heat has also caused droughts and generally increased wildfire risk.

61. Where was the first BIMSTEC Aquatics Championship organized?

[A] Lucknow

[B] New Delhi

[C] Gandhinagar

[D] Bhopal

Answer: New Delhi

Union Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the 1st BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships 2024 in New Delhi, marking the first-time hosting of the event. He emphasized the collaboration of seven BIMSTEC countries, transforming the Bay of Bengal into a hub for progress and development. The four-day competition features swimming, water polo, and diving events for Under-20 athletes, with 39 medals and nine trophies at stake.

62. The term 'Lupus', recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

[A] Autoimmune disease

[B] A geological formation

[C] Satellite launched by ISRO

[D] Invasive plant

Answer: Autoimmune disease

Australian researchers recently developed a solution for a lupus defect. Lupus, an autoimmune disease, prompts the immune system to harm organs and tissues, causing inflammation in skin, joints, blood, and vital organs like kidneys and heart. Its origin is unknown, believed to result from a blend of genetic, hormonal, and environmental factors. Lupus predominantly affects women. Variants include Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Discoid lupus, Subacute cutaneous lupus, Drug-induced lupus, and rare Neonatal lupus linked to maternal antibodies in newborns.

63. Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

[A] Uttarakhand



- [B] Haryana
- [C] Madhya Pradesh
- [D] Gujarat

Answer: Haryana

The Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Plant, an 800 MW unit in Yamunanagar, Haryana, is set to be completed in 57 months. A Rs 6900 crore tender was awarded to Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited by Chief Minister Manohar Lal in a High Power Workers Purchase Committee meeting. The plant's ultra-supercritical unit will increase capacity by 8%, reducing coal consumption and electricity costs. Aligned with 'Make in India,' it employs indigenous technology, ensuring uninterrupted power supply and featuring advanced, smaller-sized components for faster, eco-friendly electricity generation.

64. Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary (SWL), recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Mizoram
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Tripura
- [D] Assam

Answer: Tripura

The Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary in Tripura recently welcomed new additions, including two Royal Bengal tigers, two leopards, four golden pigeons, a silver pigeon, two peafowls, and four hill mynas. Established in 1972, the sanctuary spans 18.5 sq. km, featuring sections for different animal types. It houses diverse flora with 456 plant species and various fauna, including primates, leopards, clouded leopards, and a revived crab-eating mongoose. The sanctuary also boasts a rich avian population with species like winged stork and White ibis.

65. What is the theme of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day 2024?

- [A] Together for Love: Stop HIV Stigma
- [B] To acknowledge how HIV disproportionately affects Black people
- [C] Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities
- [D] Let communities lead

Answer: Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities

The theme for National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in 2024 is "Engage, Educate, Empower: Uniting to End HIV/AIDS in Black Communities". National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day is an opportunity to increase HIV education, increase testing, increase community involvement, increase treatment, promote HIV testing, prevention, and treatment and stop HIV stigma.

66. 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana', recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?

- [A] Kerala
- [B] Gujarat



[C] Maharashtra

[D] Uttar Pradesh

Answer: Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government is enhancing the well-being of senior citizens and bolstering cooperative societies with a comprehensive set of initiatives. Ranging from welfare programs to development projects, these efforts underscore the government's dedication to citizen needs and statewide growth. The 'Chief Minister Vayoshree Yojana' introduces a crucial financial aid of INR 3,000 for over 15 lakh senior citizens above 65 facing physical or mental disabilities, demonstrating a commitment to supporting vulnerable members of society.

67. Kyasanur Forest Disease, recently seen in the news, has emerged in which state?

[A] Karnataka

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Tamil Nadu

[D] Gujarat

Answer: Karnataka

Kyasanur Forest Disease, also known as Monkey Fever, poses a significant health threat in Karnataka, India. This year, 49 confirmed cases and two fatalities prompted the state's health department to be on high alert. Originating in 1957 from the Kyasanur Forest, the disease is caused by the Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV). Uttara Kannada district has seen the majority of cases, indicating a concentrated outbreak zone, leading to intensified efforts by health officials to control the spread.

68. Recently, which city announced free bus travel for transgender community?

[A] Lucknow

[B] Indore

[C] Delhi

[D] Jaipur

Answer: Delhi

The Delhi government unveiled free bus rides for the transgender community, marking a significant step towards inclusive public transportation. The decision awaits Cabinet approval, with plans to promptly implement the initiative. This move aims to facilitate accessible and cost-free travel for transgender individuals on public buses in Delhi.

69. Kilkari programme, a Mobile Health (m-health) initiative, recently launched in which states?

[A] Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh

[B] Bihar & Jharkhand

[C] Gujarat & Maharashtra

[D] Rajasthan & Karnataka

Answer: Gujarat & Maharashtra

The Kilkari program, launched by the Union Ministers of State for Health and Family



Welfare, is an m-health initiative for Gujarat and Maharashtra. It provides centralized IVR-based mobile health services, offering 72 free, weekly audio messages on pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare to registered women. Hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Kilkari requires no additional investment from states/UTs and is integrated with the centralized RCH portal, presently implemented in 18 states/UTs.

70. Sebastian Pinera, who recently passed away, was the former President of which country?

- [A] Peru
- [B] Chile
- [C] Brazil
- [D] Argentina

Answer: Chile

Chile mourns the loss of former President Sebastian Pinera, who died at 74 in a helicopter crash on February 6th. A key figure in Chilean politics, Pinera served two terms from 2010 to 2014 and 2018 to 2022, playing a pivotal role in strengthening the nation's democracy. As the first conservative leader after a military dictatorship, his leadership brought significant governance improvements, enhancing the quality of life for Chileans in various aspects.

71. Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) portal, recently seen in the news, is launched by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of MSME
- [B] Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- [C] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Finance

Answer: Ministry of Commerce and Industry

The Centre has integrated 11 fair price shops into the Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC), an initiative by DPIIT under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. ONDC, an open-source network, facilitates transactions across various sectors, promoting local commerce and supporting small enterprises. Aimed at breaking digital monopolies, it democratizes electronic commerce, offering small retailers nationwide exposure. The system standardizes operations and is expected to digitize the entire value chain, fostering inclusivity and efficiency.

72. Kokborok language, recently seen in the news, is recognized as one of the official state languages of which state?

- [A] Mizoram
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Assam
- [D] Tripura

Answer: Tripura

The Tripura Board of Secondary Education (TBSE) permits both Roman and Bengali scripts



for the Kokborok exam in Tripura. Kokborok, the mother tongue of Borok people, including Tripuris, is a Tibeto-Burman language and a lingua franca for most of Tripura's tribal communities. Borok communities are found in Tripura, other North-Eastern States, and Uttarakhand. Kokborok holds official state language status in Tripura.

73. Recently, which initiative has been launched by the Quality Council of India and Open Network for Digital Commerce to empower MSMEs?

- [A] Credit Guarantee Scheme
- [B] **DigiReady Certification Portal**
- [C] Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme
- [D] Digital Empowerment Scheme

Answer: DigiReady Certification Portal

The Quality Council of India (QCI) and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) launched the DigiReady Certification (DRC) portal on February 8, 2024. The portal is an online self-assessment tool that helps small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) determine how well-equipped they are to join the ONDC platform as vendors. The DRC portal is a strategic move to boost digital inclusion in the MSME sector. The MSME sector plays a key role in creating employment opportunities and reducing regional imbalances.

74. Zircon Missile, a supersonic ballistic missile, recently launched by which country?

- [A] **Russia**
- [B] Israel
- [C] Ukraine
- [D] China

Answer: Russia

Russian forces recently launched a 3M22 Zircon missile targeting Kyiv. The 3M22 Zircon is a scramjet-powered hypersonic cruise missile developed in Russia, boasting speeds up to Mach 9 and a 1000 km range. It features a two-stage design with solid fuel in the first stage and a scramjet motor in the second. The missile employs cooled supersonic combustion ramjet engines, creating a plasma cloud during flight for radar invisibility. It differs from other hypersonic weapons like China's DF-17 or Russia's Avangard, using an active and passive radar seeker guidance system.

75. *Steinernema adamsi*, recently seen in the news, belongs to which one of the following species?

- [A] Butterfly
- [B] Spider
- [C] Fish
- [D] **Nematode**

Answer: Nematode

Scientists at the University of California, Riverside, reveals a potent ally in pest control - a new nematode species, *Steinernema adamsi*. Belonging to the *Steinernema* family, known for insect parasite control without pesticides since the 1920s, this species is beneficial,



infecting and killing harmful insects by releasing pathogenic bacteria. Harmless to humans, *Steinernema adamsi* offers sustainable agricultural solutions against crop pests.

76. When is the 'World Pulses Day' observed every year?

- [A] 10 February
- [B] 9 February
- [C] 8 February
- [D] 11 February

Answer: 10 February

World Pulses Day, observed on February 10 annually, promotes awareness about the nutritional and environmental benefits of pulses in sustainable food production. The United Nations assigns a theme each year; the 2024 theme is "Pulses: Nourishing Soils and People," aiming to integrate pulses into diets and agricultural practices. The day originated in 2019, emphasizing pulses' role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

77. Mount Sýlingarfell, which was seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Portugal
- [B] Spain
- [C] Iceland
- [D] Romania

Answer: Iceland

A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted for the third time since December, prompting the evacuation of the Blue Lagoon spa. The eruption, along a three-kilometer fissure northeast of Mount Sýlingarfell, began at 0600 GMT. Lava flowed westward, posing no immediate threat to Grindavik. The Civil Defense agency safeguarded a hot water supply pipe, urging conservation. Iceland, prone to eruptions, experienced hundreds of small earthquakes preceding the event. The Reykjanes Peninsula faces ongoing upheaval, raising doubts about Grindavik's permanent inhabitation.

78. 'Pure for Sure' initiative, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?

- [A] CNG
- [B] LPG
- [C] Solar energy
- [D] Wind energy

Answer: LPG

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) launched "Pure for Sure" at India Energy Week 2024, aiming to enhance LPG distribution. Inaugurated by Hardeep Singh Puri, the initiative prioritizes consumer satisfaction by eliminating delivery inefficiencies. Unique features include a tamper-proof seal with QR codes for tracking cylinder integrity, ensuring quality and quantity assurance. "Pure for Sure" allow customers to authenticate cylinders pre-delivery, promoting transparency. Any tampering renders the QR code unscannable, ensuring product safety and trust in this innovative service.



79. 'Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar' initiative, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?

- [A] Uttarakhand
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Himachal Pradesh

Answer: Himachal Pradesh

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu led the 'Sarkar Gaon Ke Dwar' initiative at Amb-Pathiyar, Jawalamukhi assembly constituency. Engaging with locals, he addressed concerns and made transformative announcements, including the establishment of a Block Development Officer office in Surani, a Jal Shakti department division in Jawalamukhi, and a subdivision in Majheen, aiming to propel the region's development.

80. Bannerghatta National Park (BNP), recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Gujarat

Answer: Karnataka

Protests have erupted over a proposal by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to construct a six-lane elevated highway through Bengaluru's Bannerghatta National Park (BNP). The project, part of the satellite township ring road, aims to ease traffic but has sparked concerns among environmentalists for its potential impact on the ecologically sensitive park, home to endangered species. The plan includes cutting 1,288 trees within the park. Conservationists advocate for alternative routes, emphasizing the need for a balanced approach to infrastructure development and environmental conservation.

81. Save Wetlands Campaign (SWC), recently seen in the news, is launched by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change
- [B] Ministry of Agriculture
- [C] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Textiles

Answer: Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

The 'Save Wetlands Campaign (SWC),' initiated by MoEF&CC on World Wetlands Day 2023, concluded successfully on WWD 2024. Following a "whole of society" approach, the campaign aimed at wetlands conservation, emphasizing awareness, expanding Wetland Mitra coverage, and fostering citizen partnerships. Aligned with Mission LiFE and Mission Sahbhagita philosophy, it operated nationwide, leveraging Ramsar Sites as model anchors. Participants included State Wetland Authorities, District Administrations, Municipal Corporations, Gram Panchayats, Educational Institutes, and Knowledge Partners, yielding positive outcomes.

82. Mahmudia wetland, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?



[A] Romania

[B] Norway

[C] Sweden

[D] Serbia

Answer: Romania

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) is urging the Romanian government to designate Mahmudia wetland as a 'national interest ecological restoration area' for conservation. Mahmudia, located in the Danube Delta, is crucial for its unique ecosystems, acting as a natural buffer zone with extensive marshes and filtering pollutants from the Danube River. The Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, hosting over 5,500 flora and fauna species, is the third most biodiverse area globally and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, earning it the title 'the pearl of Romanian tourism.'

83. Recently, which state has signed an MoU on Artificial Intelligence with Google?

[A] Gujarat

[B] Maharashtra

[C] Tamil Nadu

[D] Kerala

Answer: Maharashtra

Google, the tech giant, has partnered with the Government of Maharashtra, signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deploy artificial intelligence (AI) solutions. The collaboration spans sectors like agriculture, sustainability, healthcare, education, and startups. A cutting-edge AI Centre of Excellence will be established at IIIT Nagpur. Maharashtra aims for AI-driven economic development, focusing on healthcare and agriculture. The initiative includes training 500 government IT professionals in conversational AI skills and addressing healthcare and agricultural challenges with AI solutions.

84. Recently, which Northeastern state becomes first to reinstate Old Pension Scheme for employees?

[A] Mizoram

[B] Manipur

[C] Sikkim

[D] Assam

Answer: Sikkim

Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang of Sikkim has declared the reinstatement of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for state government employees hired after April 1, 2006. According to the Sikkim Services Pension Rules, 1990, employees appointed before March 31, 1990, will benefit from this revival. This move is a significant measure towards securing the financial well-being of state government employees, especially with the imminent state assembly elections.

85. Malaprabha River, recently seen in the news, is a tributary of which river?



- [A] Godavari
- [B] Kaveri
- [C] Krishna
- [D] Narmada

Answer: Krishna

The National Board for Wildlife postponed the decision on diverting forest land for Karnataka's Kalasa-Banduri Project in Kali and Sahyadri tiger reserves. The project aims to address drinking water needs in Karnataka's Belagavi, Dharwad, Bagalkot, and Gadag districts by diverting water from Goa's Mahadayi River to the Malaprabha River basin (a tributary of Krishna River). Proposed in the 1980s, the project faced disputes among Karnataka, Goa, and Maharashtra. Barrages on Kalasa and Banduri streams are planned to redirect water to Karnataka's drought-prone districts.

86. Aral Sea, recently seen in the news, stands at the boundary between which two countries?

- [A] Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
- [B] Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan
- [C] Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan
- [D] Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan

Answer: Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

The Aral Sea, once the world's fourth-largest inland water body, has nearly disappeared due to a major Soviet water diversion project in 1960. The diversion of the Syr Darya and Amu Darya rivers for irrigation projects led to the sea's gradual drying up. Located between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, the Aral Sea depression formed millions of years ago and drained several countries. Harsh Central Asian climate and unsustainable human interventions caused its decline, leaving it on the brink of complete disappearance.

87. Who is the new brand ambassador of 'Fit India Movement'?

- [A] Neeraj Chopra
- [B] Narendra Kumar Yadav
- [C] Joginder Sharma
- [D] Sunil Kumar

Answer: Narendra Kumar Yadav

The government of India appointed IRS officer Narendra Kumar Yadav as the brand ambassador for the Fit India movement. Yadav is the Additional Director of GST and the first civil servant to be appointed as a brand ambassador for the movement.

88. Which institute has been honored with the Nelson Mandela Award 2024 by the WHO?

- [A] AIIMS Delhi
- [B] National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences
- [C] Indian Mental Health and Research Centre
- [D] National Institute of Ayurveda

Answer: National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences



The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) has been honored with the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award (NMA) by the World Health Organization (WHO) for its exceptional commitment to promoting mental health and well-being. Recognized for pioneering mental health and neuroscience advancements, NIMHANS supports innovative research, education, and patient care, integrating mental health into general healthcare. The award coincides with NIMHANS' 50th foundation year, reflecting on past achievements and the institute's ongoing dedication to its mission.

89. Where was the 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) held?

- [A] Lucknow
- [B] Bhopal
- [C] Jaipur
- [D] Dehradun

Answer: Lucknow

The 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) was hosted by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, from February 12th to 16th, 2024. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, will be the chief guest at the opening ceremony, and Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath will attend the closing ceremony. The event, organized by the RPF, aims to promote excellence and collaboration among police officers, fostering scientific detection, investigation, and internal security. The dedicated mobile app and website facilitate real-time updates and communication, enhancing the overall participant experience.

90. Nazool Land, recently seen in the news, is associated with which state?

- [A] Uttarakhand
- [B] Himachal Pradesh
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Haryana

Answer: Uttarakhand

Violence erupted in Uttarakhand as a mosque and madrasa on Nazool land were demolished. Nazool land, owned by the government, is leased for 15-99 years and used for public purposes. Originating from British rule, it was confiscated from opposing kings and royals, marked as Nazool land. Governed by The Nazool Lands (Transfer) Rules, 1956, it's often utilized for schools, hospitals, and housing societies. The government can renew or cancel leases, leading to recent conflicts in Uttarakhand.

91. What is 'Alaskapox', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Bacterial Infection
- [B] DNA virus
- [C] Fungus
- [D] Helminths

Answer: DNA virus

An Alaskan man recently became the first to die from Alaskapox, an orthopox virus



discovered in 2015. It is DNA virus belonging to the same genus as smallpox, monkeypox, and cowpox, it primarily affects small mammals. Symptoms include skin lesions, swollen lymph nodes, and muscle pain, with mild illnesses usually resolving in a few weeks. While human-to-human transmission hasn't been observed, orthopoxviruses can spread through direct contact with lesions. Immunocompromised individuals may face a higher risk of severe illness.

92. What is the primary objective of the SWATI Portal, recently seen in the news?

- [A] **Creating a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM**
- [B] To develop a new technology for women in science
- [C] To provide financial support to women entrepreneurs
- [D] Improving the lives of senior citizens

Answer: Creating a single online portal representing Indian Women and Girls in STEMM

The Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched the "Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal, focused on showcasing Indian women and girls in STEMM fields. The portal, a first-of-its-kind in India, is developed by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research. SWATI aims to address gender-gap challenges in policy making by serving as a comprehensive interactive database. It includes sections for Icons, Faculty, and various organizations, fostering inclusivity and enabling long-term research on equality and diversity in Indian science.

93. What is the theme of 'International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2024'?

- [A] Innovate. Demonstrate. Elevate. Advance
- [B] **Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability**
- [C] Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth
- [D] Equality and Parity in Science for Peace and Development

Answer: Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability

The theme for the 9th International Day of Women and Girls in Science in 2024 is "Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability". The theme emphasizes the importance of women's leadership in science for achieving global sustainability goals. The day is celebrated on February 11th. The Royal Academy of Science International Trust organizes the 2024 International Day of Women and Girls in Science Assembly.

94. Government recently launched a 'Mass Drug Administration' campaign for which disease?

- [A] Dengue
- [B] Tuberculosis
- [C] **Lymphatic Filariasis**
- [D] Chickenpox

Answer: Lymphatic Filariasis

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched the Sarva Dawa Sevan or Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign, aiming to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) in 10 high-burden states by 2027, three years ahead of the global target. Health workers will conduct



door-to-door Mass Drug Administration (MDA) in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. Intensive monitoring at the block level and daily analyses of coverage and monitoring reports will be emphasized.

95. Recently, IREDA has signed an MoU with which IIT for promoting innovation and research in the field of renewable energy?

- [A] IIT Roorkee
- [B] IIT Bombay
- [C] IIT Kanpur
- [D] IIT Bhubaneswar

Answer: IIT Bhubaneswar

The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bhubaneswar (IIT Bhubaneswar) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU is intended to support joint research efforts, technology transfer, and the start-up ecosystem in renewable energy. The collaboration was initiated at the 100 Cube Start-up Conclave held at IIT Bhubaneswar in the presence of Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Director of IITB Prof. Shreepad Karmalkar.

96. Which one of the following is the best description of term 'Forever chemicals', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Highly persistent man-made chemicals that hardly degrade in natural environment
- [B] Naturally occurring chemicals found in the environment
- [C] Chemicals that are used in textile industries
- [D] Low persistent naturally occurring chemicals

Answer: Highly persistent man-made chemicals that hardly degrade in natural environment

Researchers have developed a rapid lab-based method detecting Forever Chemicals (PFAS) in food packaging, water, and soil within three minutes. PFAS, a family of over 4,700 highly persistent synthetic chemicals, were first developed in the 1940s and are present in various consumer products. Known for their indestructible carbon-fluorine bonds, PFAS cause pollution during production, contaminating air, water, and soil. Exposure to PFAS is linked to cancers, weakened immune systems, weight gain, and various health issues, posing a global concern.

97. CM ELEVATE Entrepreneurship Programme, recently seen in the news, launched by which state government?

- [A] Sikkim
- [B] Meghalaya
- [C] Assam
- [D] Manipur

Answer: Meghalaya

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched CM-Elevate, a state-funded



entrepreneurship program, aiming to support over 20,000 entrepreneurs in various businesses over the next 3-4 years. The government has allocated Rs. 300 crore for the scheme, offering up to 75 percent subsidy and comprehensive support for proposal implementation. Sangma emphasized promoting entrepreneurship to reduce dependency on government jobs and encourage private sector job creation. The first batch of beneficiaries received financial assistance for diverse projects, marking the beginning of a three-year journey to foster entrepreneurship in the state.

98. Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Andhra Pradesh
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Kerala

Answer: Andhra Pradesh

The Great Indian Bustard (GIB) faces local extinction in Andhra Pradesh's Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary due to no sightings for years. Established in 1988, it's the state's sole GIB Sanctuary, aiming to protect the endangered bird. Situated amid Nallamalai and Yerramalai hill ranges, the sanctuary harbors diverse flora, including 32 grass species and prominent trees like Cassia fistula and Butea monosperma. The absence of GIB sightings underscores the urgent need for conservation efforts in the region.

99. Recently, which state government approved the Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024 to ban magical healing?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Sikkim
- [D] Mizoram

Answer: Assam

The Assam cabinet approved the Assam Healing (Prevention of Evil) Practices Bill, 2024 to address the issue of magical healing practices in the name of treatment. The bill states that anyone found guilty of committing the illegal act in the name of treatment/magic healing shall be punished with imprisonment and a fine. The bill's purpose is to protect vulnerable individuals from exploitation in the name of magical healing.

100. When is the 'World Unani Day' observed every year?

- [A] 11 February
- [B] 12 February
- [C] 16 February
- [D] 10 February

Answer: 11 February

World Unani Day is celebrated annually on February 11. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of **Hakim Ajmal Khan**, a social reformer and Unani scholar. Khan is known for bringing Unani medicine to India and was a **founder of Jamia Millia Islamia in** New Delhi.



The theme for World Unani Day 2024 is "Unani Medicine for One Earth, One Health"

101. Where was the first council meeting of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) held?

- [A] United States
- [B] United Kingdom
- [C] Russia
- [D] India

Answer: United States

The inaugural meeting of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) in Washington DC, United States set guidelines for implementation, proposed during COP15 in 2022. GEF's member governments committed \$1.1 billion for global initiatives addressing biodiversity, climate change, nature renewal, and pollution control. The meeting approved \$918 million for 45 projects from the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and endorsed \$203 million for 21 climate change adaptation projects from the Least Developed Countries Fund and Special Climate Change Fund. The council also approved Resource Allocation Policy and Project Cycle Policy for effective donor fund allocation.

102. Fire Capped Tit, recently seen in the news, belongs to which one of the following species?

- [A] Bird
- [B] Fish
- [C] Plant
- [D] Spider

Answer: Bird

Birders recently observed the fire-capped tit, a small bird species. It is a part of the Paridae family, in Aravalli hills, signaling reverse migration from winter to summer. Native to the Himalayas, it migrates south to Western Ghats and Kerala in September, returning in February/March. Inhabiting montane broadleaf forests, it feeds on invertebrates, nectar, and pollen. Despite early migration due to mild winters, the fire-capped tit holds a "Least Concern" conservation status.

103. Dattajiro Krishnarao Gaekwad, who passed away recently, was associated with which sport?

- [A] Football
- [B] Hockey
- [C] Boxing
- [D] Cricket

Answer: Cricket

Former Indian cricket captain Dattajiro Krishnarao Gaekwad, aged 95, passed away, making him the oldest living Indian cricketer before his demise. Gaekwad led the Baroda cricket team to victory in the Ranji Trophy during the 1957–58, leaving a significant mark on the sport.



104. Recently, IEEE Kerala Section has given the KPP Nambiar Award to whom?

- [A] S. Somnath
- [B] Palanivel Veeramuthuvel
- [C] M Sankaran
- [D] Ritu Karidhal Srivastava

Answer: S. Somnath

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath received the 2024 K.P.P. Nambiar Award from IEEE Kerala section for his pivotal role in Chandrayaan-3 and significant contributions to ISRO missions. The award, named after electronic industry pioneer K.P.P. Nambiar, honors individuals or groups in Kerala for notable advancements in technology aligned with IEEE's vision. Somanath's recognition highlights his outstanding achievements and leadership in steering ISRO's lunar exploration program.

105. Hastal Minar, which was seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

- [A] Jammu & Kashmir
- [B] Rajasthan
- [C] Andhra Pradesh
- [D] Delhi

Answer: Delhi

The Hastal Minar, located in a small village in western Delhi, was completed in 1634 during Shah Jahan's reign. Also known as Mini Qutab Minar, it's constructed with lakhori bricks and red sandstone, standing 17 meters tall with five storeys. Used by Shah Jahan as a hunting lodge, it gained Grade A heritage value in 2018, under Delhi government's Phase IV project for monument conservation. Despite not being a UNESCO World Heritage site, preservation efforts are underway.

106. Where was the statue of India's first Chief of Defence Staff, Late Gen Bipin Rawat, unveiled?

- [A] Gandhinagar
- [B] Dehradun
- [C] Shimla
- [D] Chandigarh

Answer: Dehradun

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled a life-size statue of late General Bipin Rawat, the first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), at TonsBridge School, Dehradun. In the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Defence Minister praised General Rawat's courage and humanity, terming him an enduring inspiration. Singh recalled an incident where Rawat, wounded at a remote border post, strengthened India's defense strategies. Rawat epitomized the nation's military dedication, transcending birthplace for the country's security.

107. When is the National Women's Day observed every year in India?

- [A] 12 February



[B] 13 February

[C] 14 February

[D] 15 February

Answer: 13 February

The 13th of February is National Women's Day, an annual celebration in India. 13th February marks the 145th birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu, the "Nightingale of India." A key figure in India's independence struggle and a celebrated poet, she is honored on National Women's Day for her advocacy of women's rights. Naidu's literary legacy includes the iconic 1912 poem "In the Bazaars of Hyderabad," known for its vivid imagery.

108. Ten Cities Development Concept (Doh Shaheer- Ek Rupayan), recently seen in the news, launched by which state government?

[A] Manipur

[B] Assam

[C] Sikkim

[D] Mizoram

Answer: Assam

The Assam government has launched the 'Ten Cities Development Concept' for sustainable urban development. Focused on ten cities including Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, Nagaon, Tezpur, North-Lakhimpur, Bongaigaon, Silchar, Karimganj, Dhubri, and Haflong/Diphu, the initiative serves as 'Lighthouses' guiding other urban local bodies. It aims to enhance urban infrastructure, promote balanced development, and create economic opportunities, emphasizing the state's commitment to inclusive growth in both urban and rural areas.

109. Which state government recently announced a financial assistance package for kendu leaf pluckers and binders?

[A] Chattisgarh

[B] Odisha

[C] Uttar Pradesh

[D] Bihar

Answer: Odisha

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik has allocated Rs 150 crore to support kendu leaf pluckers and binders. The package includes a 50% bonus for pluckers, a 10% incentive for binders, and extended social security for temporary workers up to age 62. Temporary workers also gain an extra month of work. Additionally, the state will provide Rs 25,000 assistance for the marriage of a kendu leaf worker's daughter, with a cap of two daughters per worker.

110. Recently, which bank has released the CRISIL study report named 'Prabhaav'?

[A] SIDBI

[B] NABARD

[C] HDFC

[D] SBI



Answer: SIDBI

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has released the CRISIL study report, "Prabhaav," evaluating the impact of the Fund of Funds for Start-ups (FFS) under the Start-up India Action Plan. Managed by SIDBI for DPIIT, FFS has facilitated investments and aided start-ups in deep tech, agri-tech, health tech, and financial services. The Ministry of Finance and DPIIT officials praised SIDBI's effective scheme management and positive outcomes, as revealed in the report.

111. Recently, India and Bangladesh launched the inaugural trial movement of vessels between which two ports?

[A] Petrapole Land Port & Ghojadanga Land Port

[B] Maia Port & Sultanganj Port

[C] Banglabandha Land Port & Mongla Port

[D] Ashuganj Port & Mongla Port

Answer: Maia Port & Sultanganj Port

India and Bangladesh launched the inaugural trial movement of vessels between Maia Port in India and Sultanganj Port in Bangladesh on February 12. Operating on Indo Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) Route no. 5 & 6, the waterway from Maia to Dhubri via Aricha is expected to cut the distance by approximately 930 kilometers, aligning with the Act East Policy's commitment to enhancing regional connectivity and trade efficiency.

112. What is the primary objective of the 'e-Jagriti Portal', recently mentioned in the news?

[A] To facilitate consumer dispute redressal

[B] To promote awareness about agricultural crops

[C] To offer loans to small businesses

[D] To provide health facilities to remote areas

Answer: To facilitate consumer dispute redressal

The Consumer Affairs Secretary advocates the infusion of artificial intelligence into the 'e-Jagriti' portal to expedite consumer court case resolutions. The portal, under the Department of Consumer Affairs, streamlines consumer dispute redressal through features like online case filing, fee payment, and AI-driven smart search for archived complaints. It integrates various grievance platforms, utilizing AI and ML technologies for voice-to-text conversions, metadata creation, and a virtual court facility, aiming to enhance efficiency and accessibility in consumer complaint resolution.

113. What is 'Cuscuta dodder', recently seen in the news?

[A] Invasive weed

[B] Fish

[C] Virus

[D] Spider

Answer: Invasive weed

Cuscuta dodder, an invasive weed native to North America, is threatening Chengalpet forests and Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary of Tamil Nadu, endangering local ecology and



migratory bird habitats. This parasitic vine lacks roots, infesting acres of trees in reserve forests and penetrating India's oldest bird sanctuary. Found on Barringtonia trees crucial for bird nesting, it forms dense canopies before strangling and killing hosts. In India, it poses a significant problem in oilseeds, pulses, and fodder crops. Globally, it's listed as a 'declared noxious weed' in 25 countries. Cuscuta seeds, with a hard coat, can survive up to 50 years in dry storage and 10 years in the field.

114. Recently, which ministry signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of 11 Shakti warfare systems?

- [A] Ministry of Defence
- [B] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- [D] Ministry of Power

Answer: Ministry of Defence

The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of 11 Shakti warfare systems and related equipment. The electronic warfare system will be installed on the Indian Navy's frontline warships. The advanced EW system 'Shakti' was designed and developed by the Defence Electronics Research Laboratory Hyderabad to intercept, detect, classify, identify, and jam conventional and modern radars. BEL is an Indian government-owned aerospace and defense electronics company that primarily manufactures advanced electronic products for ground and aerospace applications.

115. High Powered Microwave (HPM) Weapons, which was seen in the news, is unveiled by which country?

- [A] China
- [B] Russia
- [C] India
- [D] Israel

Answer: China

Chinese scientists have revealed a groundbreaking High-Power Microwave (HPM) weapon using Stirling engines. Stirling engines, functioning on external combustion principles, convert thermal energy into mechanical energy. HPM weapons, a subtype of Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs), use electromagnetic systems to convert energy and focus it on targets, causing physical damage. Capable of generating electromagnetic beams across radio and microwave frequencies, these weapons can potentially disrupt or damage targeted electronic systems.

116. 'Right to Disconnect' bill is recently introduced by which country?

- [A] Russia
- [B] Australia
- [C] India
- [D] USA



Answer: Australia

Australia's government aims to enact a "right to disconnect" Bill, regulating employer contact outside working hours. Passed in the Senate, the Bill is part of wider industrial relations changes. Employees can refuse non-urgent contact unless deemed unreasonable, considering factors like compensation, reason for contact, and disruption caused. Prime Minister Albanese emphasizes fair treatment, aligning with **similar laws in France, Italy, and Belgium**. Critics argue it may hinder business flexibility. The "right to disconnect" responds to blurred work-home boundaries exacerbated by technology and the pandemic.

117. Which state government recently launched the 'SWAYAM scheme' to provide interest-free loans to youth?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Haryana
- [C] **Odisha**
- [D] Uttar Pradesh

Answer: Odisha

The Odisha government's SWAYAM scheme provides interest-free loans of up to Rs 1 lakh to rural youth who are unemployed or underemployed. The scheme also helps entrepreneurs who want to start their own businesses.

118. Recently, which country has declared a 'national emergency' due to an oil spill?

- [A] Jamaica
- [B] Spain
- [C] **Trinidad and Tobago**
- [D] Mexico

Answer: Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago's prime minister declared a national emergency after an oil spill from an overturned vessel. The spill has coated beaches on Tobago's southwest coast, including during Carnival season, one of the country's main tourist attractions. The government has designated the spill as a Level 2 disaster, and is debating raising it to Level 3, which is a national emergency only declared when local resources are overwhelmed and international assistance is required. The government has yet to identify the owner of the vessel, which is only known as "Gulfstream".

119. Swachhata Green Leaf Rating system, recently seen in the news, is a government-initiated rating system for which sector?

- [A] **Hospitality sector**
- [B] Medical sector
- [C] Environmental sector
- [D] Agricultural sector

Answer: Hospitality sector

The Swachhata Green Leaf Rating system, launched in November 2023 by the Union



Tourism Ministry, has faced a setback as no state has responded despite three communications. The initiative aims to enhance hygiene in hospitality sectors like hotels, resorts, and homestays. The rating, focusing on safe sanitation practices, targets establishments with portable toilets. A three-tiered committee system, from on-ground verification to state-level assessment, has been proposed for implementation to prevent water pollution and maintain environmental cleanliness.

120. National Generic Document Registration System, recently seen in the news, is initiated by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [B] Ministry of Rural Development
- [C] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Tourism

Answer: Ministry of Rural Development

The National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS) and Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) were launched in Assam by the Secretary, Department of Land Resources. Initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, NGDRS is a common application for registration departments nationwide. Developed by the National Informatics Centre Pune, it offers a user-friendly interface for online land buying, property valuation, and document submission, reducing the need for multiple visits to the sub-registrar's office.

121. What was the primary objective of the Cassini-Huygens Mission, recently seen in the news?

- [A] Analyzing the composition of Asteroids
- [B] Exploring about black holes
- [C] Investigating the atmosphere and moons of Saturn
- [D] Searching for exoplanets

Answer: Investigating the atmosphere and moons of Saturn

NASA's Cassini spacecraft, part of a joint mission with ESA and ASI, recently unveiled a vast ocean beneath the icy surface of Saturn's moon Mimas. Launched in 1997, Cassini orbited Saturn from 2004 to 2017, contributing vital insights about the planet and its moons. Weighing 2,125 kg, it mapped Titan's surface with radar and studied Saturn's magnetic field. Cassini's Huygens probe, weighing 349 kg, landed on Titan, discovering six moons and identifying Enceladus and Titan as potential locations for extraterrestrial life.

122. *Attemsostreptus leptoptilos*, recently seen in the news, belongs to which one of the following species?

- [A] Millipede
- [B] Snake
- [C] Invasive plant
- [D] Fish

Answer: Millipede



Researchers at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia discovered a new millipede genus and five species in Tanzania's Udzungwa Mountains. According to the USC, *Attemsostreptus leptoptilos* is one of five new species of millipedes with 200 legs that were discovered in Tanzanian jungles in February 2024. The other four species are *Attemsostreptus cataractae*, *Attemsostreptus julostratus*, *Lophostreptus magombera*, and *Udzungwastreptus marianae*.

123. Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), recently seen in the news, primarily deals with which one of the following?

- [A] Promoting hatred among classes
- [B] Maintenance of wives, children and parents
- [C] Culpable homicide
- [D] Juvenile Justice

Answer: Maintenance of wives, children and parents

The Supreme Court is set to examine whether divorced Muslim women can seek maintenance under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). Section 125 covers maintenance for wives, children, and parents, allowing financial support claims if certain conditions are met. These include neglect or refusal, dependency on the respondent, sufficient means of the person liable to pay, and the court determining the quantum based on various factors. Maintenance can be temporary or permanent, awarded monthly, with enforcement options for non-compliance.

124. Recently, Reality tech firm unveiled a digital twin of Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah's tomb in which city?

- [A] Hyderabad
- [B] Lucknow
- [C] Delhi
- [D] Bhopal

Answer: Hyderabad

Reality tech firm recently revealed a digital twin of Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah's grand tomb in Hyderabad. The tomb, constructed in 1602, stands at a majestic height of 60 m within the Qutb Shahi heritage park complex. Mohammed Quli Qutb Shah, the fifth king of the Qutb Shahi dynasty and founder of Hyderabad, was a prolific poet in Persian, Telugu, and Deccani Urdu. His poetry touched on diverse aspects of communal life, festivals, love, and faith, blending traditions in a unique manner.

125. Recently, India's first Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) is launched in which state?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Uttarakhand
- [C] Rajasthan
- [D] Himachal Pradesh

Answer: Uttarakhand



India is set to introduce its inaugural Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) in Uttarakhand, as announced by Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. The HEMS, based at AIIMS in Rishikesh, aims to swiftly airlift accident victims within a 150 km radius for timely critical care. This initiative aligns with the government's commitment to extend medical outreach and trauma care services, prioritizing timely transportation for patients in hilly terrains to access vital care at AIIMS within the crucial 'golden hour' post-accident.

126. Recently, which state police force became the first in India to utilize drones for launching tear gas?

- [A] Haryana
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Rajasthan
- [D] Gujarat

Answer: Haryana

The Haryana police used drones to drop tear gas shells on protesters near the Shambhu border. This is the first time law enforcement agencies in India have used drones to launch tear gas shells. The drones are originally designed to monitor agriculture and horticulture crops, survey infrastructure projects, and conduct security surveillance in sensitive areas. The drones were repurposed for crowd control.

127. Which ministry has launched the renewed portal of the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund?

- [A] Ministry of Rural Development
- [B] Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
- [C] Ministry of Agriculture
- [D] Ministry of Tourism

Answer: Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Union Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala unveiled the enhanced Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) scheme with an increased outlay of ₹29,610 crore, up from ₹15,000 crore, showcasing the government's dedication to boost the livestock sector. The Cabinet approved the realignment, extending the scheme until 2025-26, emphasizing support for rural livelihoods. Additionally, a Radio Jingle for AHIDF was introduced during the event in New Delhi.

128. Kanha Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Odisha

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

A male tiger from the Kanha Tiger Reserve has been relocated to Mukundpur Safari in Satna. Kanha Tiger Reserve, the largest in Madhya Pradesh, spans 940 sq km across Mandla and Balaghat districts. Established on June 1, 1955, and declared a tiger reserve in



1973, it features forested undulations, hills, plateaus, and valleys. The reserve, believed to have inspired Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, is home to India's first tiger reserve mascot, "Bhoorsingh the Barasingha."

129. Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana, recently seen in the news, is an initiative of which state?

- [A] Jharkhand
- [B] Haryana
- [C] Rajasthan
- [D] Uttar Pradesh

Answer: Uttar Pradesh

Sandeep Kaur, Director of the Women's Welfare Department, announces a significant increase in grants for the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana. In response to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive, the grant per beneficiary will rise from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 annually starting April. The initiative, addressing challenges faced by girls in Uttar Pradesh, aims to enhance their well-being from birth through their educational journey.

130. Recently, which bank has clinched the title of 'Best Technology Bank of the Year Award'?

- [A] State Bank of India
- [B] South Indian Bank
- [C] HDFC Bank
- [D] Regional Rural Banks

Answer: South Indian Bank

South Indian Bank has been honored as the Best Technology Bank of the Year at the 19th IBA Annual Banking Technology Conference. The bank received six awards, including three wins, one runner-up position, and two special mentions. T Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, presented the accolades to PR Seshadri, MD & CEO of South Indian Bank, at the Mumbai venue organized by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

131. Recently, which institute has created an anti-drone system that relies on sound technology?

- [A] IIT Roorkee
- [B] IIT Bombay
- [C] IIT Jammu
- [D] IIT Kanpur

Answer: IIT Jammu

Professor Karan Nathwani of IIT-Jammu developed an innovative anti-drone system using sound technology, priced at around Rs 4 lakh. This cost-effective solution outperforms traditional anti-drone technologies and detects drones, aircraft, and birds within a 300-meter range. With production costs between Rs 25,000 and Rs 40,000, it ensures accessibility for a diverse user base, showcasing versatility and effectiveness in various



scenarios.

132. Recently, which state government launched 'Van Mitra' Scheme to boost green cover?

- [A] Haryana
- [B] Rajasthan
- [C] Gujarat
- [D] Odisha

Answer: Haryana

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the 'Van Mitra' scheme, focusing on community-driven afforestation in non-forest areas. The initiative aims to involve local communities in expanding the state's green cover, increasing survival rates of newly planted trees, and promoting tree planting beyond conventional forest zones. The scheme emphasizes environmental conservation and underscores the importance of community engagement in fostering sustainable afforestation efforts across Haryana.

133. Diphtheria, recently seen in the news, is caused by which one of the following agents?

- [A] Bacteria
- [B] Virus
- [C] Fungus
- [D] Protozoa

Answer: Bacteria

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently released guidelines on managing diphtheria, a contagious bacterial infection of the nose and throat caused by *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*. Transmission occurs through respiratory droplets or touching infected sores. While treatable with medications, advanced cases can damage the heart, kidneys, and nervous system. Symptoms include a gray throat membrane, sore throat, swollen glands, and difficulty breathing. Current treatments involve Diphtheria Antitoxin, antibiotics, and supportive care to prevent complications like airway obstruction and myocarditis.

134. Recently, which one of the following banks signed a pact for UPI-NPI linkage?

- [A] Reserve Bank of India & Nepal Rastra Bank
- [B] Reserve Bank of India & Nepal Investment Mega Bank
- [C] State Bank of India & Nepal Rastra Bank
- [D] State Bank of India & Nabil Bank

Answer: Reserve Bank of India & Nepal Rastra Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Nepal Rastra Bank have partnered to integrate India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Nepal's National Payments Interface (NPI). The collaboration aims to establish infrastructure for seamless cross-border transactions, facilitating efficient remittances. The formalized agreement signifies a concerted effort to interlink UPI and NPI, enhancing the speed and ease of cross-border payments between the two countries.



135. Recently, Armed Forces Medical Services signed an MoU with which institute for biomedical research?

- [A] IIT Roorkee
- [B] IIT Delhi
- [C] IIT Bombay
- [D] IIT Kanpur

Answer: IIT Roorkee

The Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote collaborative biomedical research. The goal of the MoU is to improve the combat medical support and patient care for serving personnel. The Director General (Org & Pers) Lt Gen SK Singh and the Director IIT Roorkee Prof Kamal Kishore Pant signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

136. Sikkim's INSPIRES programme, recently seen in the news, is assisted by which multinational institutions?

- [A] International Monetary Fund
- [B] World Bank
- [C] Global Environment Facility
- [D] Asian Development Bank

Answer: World Bank

Sikkim's Chief Minister, Prem Singh Tamang, introduced Sikkim INSPIRES, a groundbreaking collaboration between the state government and the World Bank. With a \$100 million allocation, the program spans five years, engaging nine government departments to foster economic growth and inclusion. The initiative prioritizes collaboration and capacity-building across sectors, aiming to strengthen the state system for inclusive growth, employment for women and youth, and enhanced delivery of enabling services. The launch event featured a slogan competition winner announcement and the unveiling of a mental health awareness mobile app.

137. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of IRCTC?

- [A] Sanjay Kumar Jain
- [B] Neeraj Sharma
- [C] KK Mishra
- [D] Ajit Kumar

Answer: Sanjay Kumar Jain

Sanjay Kumar Jain is the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). Jain is an IRTS Officer from the 1990 batch and a qualified chartered accountant (CA). His career includes leadership roles in policy making, commercial ventures, and developmental ventures of the Government of India and PSUs. The Government of India's Ministry of Railways has approved Jain's appointment until his superannuation on December 31, 2026, or until further orders.



138. Recently, which company became the first Indian to surpassed Rs 20 lakh crore in market capitalization?

- [A] Reliance Industries
- [B] Infosys
- [C] Tata Motors
- [D] Mahindra Group

Answer: Reliance Industries

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) recently achieved a historic milestone, becoming the first Indian company to surpass Rs 20 lakh crore in market capitalization. Market capitalization, or Market Cap, signifies a company's market value based on its share price and outstanding shares. RIL's achievement highlights its significant market presence, making it a large-cap company. Market capitalization is crucial for investors to assess a company's value and predict future stock performance based on market perceptions and willingness to invest.

139. Which organisation has recently conducted the BSE EXPO-2024?

- [A] Broadcast Engineering Society
- [B] Securities and Exchange Board of India
- [C] Ministry of Economic Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Information & Broadcasting

Answer: Broadcast Engineering Society

The Broadcast Engineering Society (India) hosted the BSE EXPO-2024, the 28th International Conference and Exhibition on Broadcast and Media Technology in New Delhi. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur will be the chief guest, along with his deputy Dr L Murugan.

140. Mission Basundhara, recently seen in the news, is an initiative of which state?

- [A] Mizoram
- [B] Manipur
- [C] Assam
- [D] Sikkim

Answer: Assam

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced the launch of Mission Basundhara 4.0, focusing on surveying land within riverine areas. The government aims to settle land in mission mode, terming it as Basundhara. Basundhara 3.0 will commence after Lok Sabha elections, focusing on comprehensive land management and reserving revenue villages with 100% ST and SC communities. Mission Basundhara 2.0, launched in November 2022, addressed indigenous peoples land rights, settling over 3 lakh bigha in Brahmaputra Valley and 1 thousand bigha in Barak Valley. Mission Basundhara 3.0 will bring reforms, waiving the 'three-generation' requirement for tea, Adivasi, Gorkha, ST, and SC communities. Sunsali and Tea Garden Grant areas residents get a one-time opportunity under Mission Basundhara 3.0 for land patta applications.



141. Pandaram land, recently seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

- [A] Lakshadweep
- [B] Tamil Nadu
- [C] Puducherry
- [D] Andhra Pradesh

Answer: Lakshadweep

A dispute in Lakshadweep has arisen over the administration's assertion of government ownership of Pandaram lands, leading to tension with locals. The conflict escalated as the administrator claimed Pandaram properties belonged to the government, contradicting traditional ownership. Locals allege the administration is violating a High Court stay on numbering coconut trees on Pandaram lands, suggesting potential felling. Despite officials refusing to comment on record, a senior official dismissed concerns as presumptions.

142. Researchers have recently discovered a new species of marine amphipod in which lake of Odisha?

- [A] Tampara lake
- [B] Kanjia lake
- [C] Chilika lake
- [D] Sar lake

Answer: Chilika lake

Researchers at Odisha's Berhampur University discovered a new marine amphipod species, a shrimp-like crustacean, in Chilika lagoon. Belonging to the genus Parhyale, which has 15 global species in marine and brackish water environments, this brown crustacean is around eight mm long with 13 pairs of legs. Notably, it distinguishes itself from the 15 species by featuring a stout robust seta on the male gnathopod's propodus, the first pair of legs, used for capturing prey and feeding.

143. India signed a Memorandum of Understanding with which country for sharing open-sourced digital public infrastructure?

- [A] Colombia
- [B] Chile
- [C] Brazil
- [D] Guyana

Answer: Colombia

India and Colombia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share India's open-sourced digital public infrastructure (DPI). The MoU is for cooperation in digital transformation, including sharing successful digital solutions that have been implemented at population scale. India has developed some of the world's best digital public goods infrastructure, including delivering services to the public during the COVID pandemic.

144. Where was the statue of Khasi freedom fighter U Tirot Sing recently unveiled?

- [A] Kathmandu



- [B] Dhaka
- [C] Hyderabad
- [D] Kolkata

Answer: Dhaka

A statue of U Tirot Sing, a Khasi Hills freedom fighter who resisted British colonialism 200 years ago, was recently unveiled at the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka. Known as the 'Hero of the Khasi Hills,' Tirot Sing's heroic struggle against British forces in 1829, during the Anglo-Khasi War, has inspired many. Captured and dying in Dhaka on July 17, 1835, Tirot Sing's legacy is celebrated, with Deputy Chief Minister Sniawbhalang Dhar and High Commissioner Pranay Verma attending the unveiling.

145. Where was the 12th edition of MILAN naval exercise held?

- [A] Kutch
- [B] Kochi
- [C] Jaisalmer
- [D] Visakhapatnam

Answer: Visakhapatnam

The 12th edition of the MILAN naval exercise took place in Visakhapatnam from February 19–27, 2024. The exercise, which has the theme "Forging Naval Alliances for a Secure Maritime Future," aims to strengthen collaboration between participating navies.

146. Prabowo Subianto, recently seen in the news, became the new president of which country?

- [A] Indonesia
- [B] Malaysia
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Egypt

Answer: Indonesia

Prabowo Subianto, a 72-year-old former Special Forces commander and defense minister, claimed victory in the Indonesian presidential election, securing nearly 60% of votes according to quick counts. Born in Jakarta in 1951, he joined the Indonesian Military Academy in 1970, rising through the ranks. Prabowo, a close associate of Soeharto, married the former leader's daughter. Notably, he led the Kopassus unit during the anti-Chinese riots in May 1998.

147. Recently, where were the iron ore deposits uncovered in Rajasthan?

- [A] Jodhpur
- [B] Ajmer
- [C] Karauli
- [D] Bikaner

Answer: Karauli

The Rajasthan Mines Department has discovered over 840 million tonnes of iron ore in Khoda, Dadaroli, Todupura, and Liloti near Hindon, Karauli. A composite license for iron



ore blocks spanning 1,888 hectares is set for auction. Preliminary exploration revealed magnetite and hematite deposits across 462.3 hectares in Khoda, 754.38 hectares in Dadaroli, 260.71 hectares in Todupura, and 410.94 hectares in Liloti. The findings are expected to boost industrial investment, particularly benefiting steel, cement, coal, and related industries in the state, fostering economic growth and job opportunities.

148. PM-SVANidhi scheme, recently seen in the news, is launched by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Rural Development
- [B] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- [C] Ministry of Agriculture
- [D] Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Union Minister Hardeep Puri praised PM SVANidhi for restoring street vendors' dignity during the pandemic. Launched on June 1, 2020, the scheme provided affordable working capital loans, totaling ₹10,678 crore, to over 60.94 lakh street vendors. The initiative, overseen by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, distributed loans to 10,000 vendors at the PM SVANidhi Mega Camp, benefitting those severely affected by Covid-19 lockdown.

149. Recently, which country became the first orthodox-majority nation to allow same-sex marriage?

- [A] Greece
- [B] Bulgaria
- [C] Romania
- [D] Cyprus

Answer: Greece

In February 2024, Greece became the first Orthodox Christian country to legalize same-sex marriage under civil law. The Athens parliament passed the bill with a vote of 176-76, and the bill also allows same-sex couples to legally adopt children.

150. Zemithang, Taksing, and Chayang Tajo, recently in the news due to the Vibrant Villages Programme, are located in which state?

- [A] Assam
- [B] Mizoram
- [C] Manipur
- [D] Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: Arunachal Pradesh

Chinese citizens are occupying Xiaokang border defense villages along India's northeastern border. China has built 628 well-off villages along India's borders with Tibet over five years, covering Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. In response, India launched the Vibrant Villages Programme in 2022, aiming to develop 663 border villages into modern tourist attractions. Zemithang, Taksing, and Chayang Tajo are located in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. The villages are part of the Vibrant Village Programme, a pilot



initiative by the government to develop remote and border villages.

151. Nohar irrigation project, recently seen in the news, is associated with which state?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Himachal Pradesh

Answer: Rajasthan

The Nohar irrigation project in Jaipur, Rajasthan, is set to receive increased water supply as the Ferozepur feeder in Punjab undergoes repairs, enhancing its capacity and flow. Following Central Water Commission intervention, a technical committee recommended Nohar feeder remodelling due to inadequate water availability. Rajasthan and Punjab governments agreed to collaborate, and Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat convened a meeting to review the progress, focusing on renovating Baruwali distributary and Fatehabad branch. The estimated expenditure for the project is ₹139.51 crore.

152. What is the primary objective of 'Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Promotion of Indian languages in education
- [B] Promotion of foreign languages
- [C] Promotion of science and technology
- [D] Promotion of arts and culture

Answer: Promotion of Indian languages in education

The Chairman of Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti recently advocated for promoting Indian languages in education, announcing that textbooks will soon be available in Indian languages on digital platforms. Established by the Ministry of Education in 2021, the committee's mandate, under the National Education Policy 2020, involves recommending pathways for holistic growth of Indian languages, advising the Ministry on language revitalization, and organizing events to emphasize language promotion. The High-Powered Committee may appoint sub-committees and collaborate with government institutions for language teaching and research.

153. Scientists recently detected water molecules on the surface of two asteroids for the first time ever by using which telescope?

- [A] SOFIA
- [B] HEAO 3
- [C] HETE 2
- [D] CHIPS

Answer: SOFIA

NASA's SOFIA airborne observatory, a telescope mounted on a Boeing 747 SP aircraft, recently discovered water molecules on the surfaces of two asteroids, marking the first such detection. Operating for 12 years until its premature end in 2022, SOFIA, jointly operated by NASA and the German space agency, studied infrared light, allowing



astronomers to observe the universe from 38,000-45,000 feet, above most of Earth's infrared-blocking atmosphere. It was the world's largest airborne astronomical observatory, facilitating unique studies of celestial bodies and transient events globally.

154. Melghat Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Kerala

Answer: Maharashtra

The Kula Mama Volleyball Tournament-2024 at Melghat Tiger Reserve's Semadoh promotes tiger and forest conservation with local youth engagement. Melghat Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra, established in 1967, declared a tiger reserve in 1974, and the first in the state, is located in the Amaravati district. Characterized by tropical dry deciduous forests and major rivers, it plays a crucial role in protecting wildlife. The tournament underscores the significance of preserving this pristine landscape and its inhabitants.

155. Sominsai festival, recently seen in the news, is associated with which country?

- [A] Egypt
- [B] Vietnam
- [C] Japan
- [D] China

Answer: Japan

The Sominsai festival, deeply ingrained in Japanese culture, recently marked its millennium-long legacy's final celebration. This ancient tradition, occurring on the seventh day of the Lunar New Year, showcased fervent nude wrestling matches among hundreds of men over wooden talismans. The festival, a captivating spectacle of tradition and spirituality, has left an indelible mark on Japan's cultural landscape.

156. Where was the first 'Child-Friendly Police Station' inaugurated?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Odisha

Answer: Maharashtra

A child-friendly police station has been inaugurated in Maharashtra's Dhule district at Azadnagar Police Station. Conceived by District Collector Abhinav Goyal and Women and Child Development Officer Rajendra Birari, the initiative aims to create a safe and enjoyable space for children. A room on the ground floor is adorned with child-friendly pictures. District SP Shrikant Dhiware praised the effort, stressing the collective responsibility of the juvenile justice system to ensure children's safety and well-being. He urged incorporating child-friendly practices for a fear-free environment.

157. What is the primary role of the Chinook/CH-47F helicopter, recently seen in the news?



- [A] Attack and armed reconnaissance
- [B] Search and Rescue
- [C] Medical evacuation
- [D] Heavy troop and supply transport

Answer: Heavy troop and supply transport

An Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter made a precautionary landing in Punjab due to a technical snag. The Chinook/CH-47F, manufactured by Boeing, is a tandem rotor heavy-lift helicopter used for troop and supply transport. India operates 15 Chinooks, featuring advanced cargo handling, a fully integrated digital cockpit, and a triple hook system. With a maximum speed of 160 knots, it can carry 55 troops or 10 tonnes of cargo, showcasing its versatility in military operations.

158. The Chars, recently mentioned in the news, are riverine areas associated with which river?

- [A] Ganga River
- [B] Yamuna River
- [C] Brahmaputra River
- [D] Narmada River

Answer: Brahmaputra River

The Chief Minister of Assam has announced a mission to reclaim chars, riverine islands in the Brahmaputra, to preserve ecological integrity. Chars face constant migration, with erosion upstream and deposition downstream during floods, impacting their geometry. Char areas encounter challenges like poor communication, mobility, and infrastructure, hindering development. Issues include isolation, flood threats, and difficulties implementing schemes for roads, irrigation, power, and education in these unique, flood-prone regions.

159. Recently, which ministry released the 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines for Indian Port Performance Index?

- [A] Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways
- [B] Ministry of Defence
- [C] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [D] Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched 'Sagar Aankalan' guidelines to improve Indian ports' performance, focusing on mapping, benchmarking, and aligning standards globally. Stemming from the success of GMIS 2023, a major maritime summit, the initiative aims to boost the maritime sector, evidenced by a ₹10 lakh crore investment commitment. The move underscores the government's dedication to modernize and optimize India's maritime infrastructure for economic growth and global competitiveness.

160. Nagi Bird Festival, recently seen in the news, is associated with which state?

- [A] Gujarat



[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Bihar

[D] Odisha

Answer: Bihar

The Nagi Bird Festival is associated with the state of Bihar. The Bihar government's Forest and Environment department hosts the three-day festival in Jamui, the district's Nagi bird sanctuary. The festival's primary objective is to educate people on migratory birds and their habitats, and to promote bird conservation.

161. What is 'ANUVADINI', recently mentioned in the news?

[A] Satellite

[B] Tribal language

[C] AI tool

[D] Tribal festival

Answer: AI tool

'Anuvadini' is an AI-driven multilingual translation app designed in-house, enabling rapid conversion of English content into various languages via machine learning, supplemented by expert reviews. In the last two years, it has translated numerous textbooks for Ekumbh, an online platform. The initiative also offers 12 regional language choices for national entrance exams, showcasing substantial progress in the realm of AI-based language translation.

162. PM Vishwakarma Yojana, recently seen in the news, is launched by which ministry?

[A] Ministry of Home Affairs

[B] Ministry of Rural Development

[C] Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying

[D] Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

Answer: Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

The 'PM Vishwakarma Yojana' by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises offers artisans and craftsmen affordable loans, skill training, modern equipment, and promotes digital transactions. With a budget of Rs 13,000 crore, the scheme covers 18 businesses and is set to run for five years until the financial year 2027-28, aiming to boost the growth and development of the micro, small, and medium enterprises sector.

163. Which bank of India recently collaborated with AIIMS to launch the Smart Payment Card for cashless transactions?

[A] SBI

[B] HDFC

[C] ICICI

[D] AXIS

Answer: SBI

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the AIIMS-SBI Smart payment card at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. The card aims to facilitate hassle-



free payments for patients, eliminating the need for carrying cash. Provided free of cost with no service charges, the card is linked to the patient's Unique Hospital Identification number and Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID. Termed 'One AIIMS, One Card,' the initiative plans to extend these services to all AIIMS institutions nationwide.

164. 'Aarogya-Doctors on Wheels', recently seen in the news, is an initiative of which state/UT?

- [A] Delhi
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Jammu & Kashmir
- [D] Gujarat

Answer: Jammu & Kashmir

The "Aarogya-Doctors on Wheels" initiative has been introduced in Udhampur, J&K, featuring an AI-driven Tele Clinic to offer healthcare in remote areas. Patients can describe their ailments in their native language, and the AI doctor comprehends and responds in the same language. This free telemedicine service addresses challenges of accessibility, availability, and affordability, bringing healthcare solutions to underserved regions.

165. What is the name of the Indian Coast Guard ship that made a port call at Maputo Port, Mozambique?

- [A] Varad
- [B] Vikram
- [C] Vajra
- [D] Varaha

Answer: Varaha

The Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) ICGS Varaha made a port call at Maputo Port, Mozambique. The visit is part of a strategic overseas deployment to East Africa and is a milestone in diplomatic maritime engagements. The visit lasts three days and includes professional interactions in the fields of: Marine Pollution Response (MPR) Maritime Law Enforcement Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR). The visit also includes engagements with the Mozambican Navy, outreach events, yoga, and coastal cleanup as part of Puneet Sagar Abhiyaan.

166. Where was the 60th Munich Security Conference held?

- [A] Germany
- [B] Russia
- [C] China
- [D] France

Answer: Germany

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar is attending the 60th Munich Security Conference in Germany, engaging in discussions with global leaders to address bilateral cooperation and global concerns. The three-day conference serves as a platform for high-level debates on pressing security challenges, fostering international dialogue and cooperation.



167. What is the purpose of the European Union's recently launched 'Mission Aspides' in the Red Sea?

- [A] Counterterrorism operations
- [B] Humanitarian aid delivery
- [C] Protection of commercial vessels from attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels
- [D] Environmental conservation efforts

Answer: Protection of commercial vessels from attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels

The European Union has initiated Mission Aspides to safeguard commercial vessels in the Red Sea from potential attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels. This EU naval mission involves deploying warships and airborne early warning systems in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, and surrounding waters. Participating countries include France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium. Aspides vessels, operating under strict rules of engagement, are stationed in Larissa, Greece, and are authorized to fire only in response to Houthi attacks. The mission, initially planned for a year, is subject to renewal.

168. Recently, which state has secured ₹740 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Bihar
- [D] Odisha

Answer: Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh secures ₹740 crore, the highest in India, under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) Scheme, a revamped version of Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA). The centrally sponsored scheme, under the Ministry of Education, aims to enhance the quality of state higher educational institutions in line with the National Education Policy 2020. PM-USHA emphasizes conformity to prescribed norms, standards, and accreditation for quality assurance in higher education.

169. Which country hosted the 3rd meeting of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)?

- [A] Indonesia
- [B] India
- [C] Myanmar
- [D] Malaysia

Answer: India

The ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) Joint Committee met in New Delhi from February 16-19, 2024, marking its 3rd meeting since the agreement's signing in 2009. Initiated in September 2022 for a comprehensive review, eight sub-committees were established to enhance the agreement's trade facilitation and mutual benefits. The recent meeting assessed negotiation progress, identified focus areas for further deliberations, and updated the work program, directing sub-committees for continued negotiations.



170. Mukhya Mantri Harit Vikas Chhatravriti Yojana, recently seen in the news, is launched by which state?

- [A] Uttarakhand
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Uttar Pradesh
- [D] Himachal Pradesh

Answer: Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh's 2024-25 annual budget prioritizes environmental concerns, unveiling the Mukhya Mantri Harit Vikas Chhatravriti Yojana for postgraduate researchers. Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu, in the February 17 presentation, emphasized climate change threats and outlined action plans at district and Panchayat levels. The state aims to collaborate with the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change and the German development agency GIZ to address climate change's impact on agriculture and horticulture, conducting a need assessment study for effective mitigation.

171. What are Iris and Massalia, recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] Asteroids
- [B] Black holes
- [C] Glacial lakes
- [D] Patrol vessels

Answer: Asteroids

Iris and Massalia are asteroids that have similar orbits and are potentially the first asteroids in our solar system to have confirmed water. Iris is 124 miles in diameter, making it larger than 99% of asteroids in our solar system. It orbits between Mars and Jupiter and is the fourth brightest object in the asteroid belt. Massalia is 84 miles in diameter and is similar in size to Iris. Scientists using SOFIA's infrared telescope discovered molecular water on the asteroids. The water could be stored in multiple ways, such as trapped in silicate glass beads or stuck to the silicates' surface.

172. Vaitarna River, recently seen in the news, originates from which one of the following?

- [A] Powai hills
- [B] Anamudi hills
- [C] Trimbakeshwar Hills
- [D] Nilgiri hills

Answer: Trimbakeshwar Hills

A recent bull shark attack on a fisherman in Maharashtra's Vaitarna River marked the first sighting of the aggressive species 40km upstream. Vaitarna, a west-flowing river, originates in Trimbakeshwar Hills and drains 2019 sq km in Thane and Nasik districts. Bull sharks, known for their aggressiveness, can tolerate freshwater and saltwater, venturing into rivers. The species, with a unique viviparity reproduction method, is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN due to threats.

173. Which district of Madhya Pradesh recently organized a 'Banana Festival'?



[A] Burhanpur

[B] Ujjain

[C] Balaghat

[D] Rewa

Answer: Burhanpur

Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh, known as the banana city, is hosting its annual Banana Festival in collaboration with the district administration. The two-day event, under the One-District One-Product programme, highlights Burhanpur's agricultural strength with 23,650 hectares of banana cultivation involving 18,325 farmers. The region yields an impressive 16 lakh metric tonnes of bananas, contributing to a significant sales turnover of 1,700 crore rupees. The festival aims to attract investment by showcasing Burhanpur's agricultural prowess to companies, experts, and scientists nationwide.

174. Recently, IREDA and which bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding to co-finance renewable energy projects?

[A] State Bank of India

[B] Punjab National Bank

[C] Union Bank of India

[D] Axis Bank

Answer: Punjab National Bank

IREDA and PNB inked an MoU at IREDA's New Delhi office on Feb 19, 2024, fostering collaboration for nationwide renewable energy initiatives. The agreement facilitates joint efforts in co-lending and loan syndication for diverse renewable energy projects, signaling a significant step towards sustainable energy development in India.

175. Where was the 'Neem Summit & Global Neem Trade Fair' held?

[A] Bhopal

[B] Chennai

[C] Jaipur

[D] New Delhi

Answer: New Delhi

The Neem Summit & Global Neem Trade Fair, hosted in New Delhi on 19-20 February 2024, is a collaborative initiative led by ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Jhansi. With diverse stakeholders, the event highlights neem's versatile applications in agriculture, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. Embracing the theme "Neem for Sustainable Agriculture, Health, and Environment," the summit aims to spotlight neem's multifaceted benefits and promote its role in fostering sustainability across various sectors.

176. What is the rank of India in the Henley Passport Index 2024?

[A] 84th

[B] 85th

[C] 86th

[D] 87th



Answer: 85th

France leads the Henley Passport Index 2024 with visa-free access to 194 countries. European nations like Germany, Italy, and Spain, benefiting from EU influence, also rank high. India, now at 85th place, improved visa-free access to 62 countries but dropped one position. Maldives, India's maritime neighbor, stands at 58th place with visa-free access to 96 countries, highlighting its global travel flexibility.

177. What is the primary focus of INDUS-X initiative, recently seen in the news?

- [A] Protection of historical monuments
- [B] Advancing of high-tech cooperation in the defense sector
- [C] Advancing of cyber security measures
- [D] Developing software solutions for startups

Answer: Advancing of high-tech cooperation in the defense sector

The 'INDUS-X' summit in Delhi is a major milestone in the U.S.-India Defense Accelerator Ecosystem, launched in June 2023. Its objective is to enhance technology partnerships and defense cooperation between India and the US, focusing on joint research, development, and production in the defense sector. INDUS-X includes initiatives like Joint Challenges, Joint Innovation Fund, academia engagement, industry-startup connections, private entity investments, and collaboration on projects such as jet engines, long-range artillery, and infantry vehicles. IDEX and OSD, US, lead the initiative.

178. Recently, which one of the following state has launched an Urban Sanitation Policy?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Chattisgarh
- [C] Bihar
- [D] Jharkhand

Answer: Odisha

The Odisha government has launched the 'Odisha Inclusive Urban Sanitation Policy 2024' to enhance sanitation services, emphasizing a circular economy, community partnership, and disaster resilience. Issued by the Housing and Urban Development Department, it aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 6.2, reflecting the state's commitment to improving citizens' access to sanitation infrastructure. The policy is part of Odisha's broader Swachh Odisha, Sustha Odisha movement, focusing on urban sanitation initiatives to enhance infrastructure and service delivery.

179. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Shri Kalki Dham Temple in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

- [A] Ayodhya
- [B] Saharanpur
- [C] Sambhal
- [D] Sitapur

Answer: Sambhal

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Shri Kalki Dham Temple in



Sambhal district, Uttar Pradesh. Constructed by Shri Kalki Dham Nirman Trust, chaired by Acharya Pramod Krishnam, the temple's unique feature is its ten garbh grihas, representing all ten avatars of the Lord, including the human form. The Prime Minister highlighted the intricate architecture, emphasizing the embodiment of various divine forms in the scriptures.

180. Which state government recently launched the 'Swayam scheme' to empower its youth with interest free loans?

- [A] Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Odisha
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Karnataka

Answer: Odisha

The Odisha government recently launched the "Swayam" scheme to provide interest-free loans to the state's youth. The scheme aims to support young entrepreneurs by providing loans of up to Rs 1 lakh to help them start small businesses and contribute to the state's business environment.

181. Recently, which organization has launched the 'Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH)'?

- [A] World Health Organization (WHO)
- [B] UNICEF
- [C] United Nations
- [D] European Union

Answer: World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) as part of India's G20 presidency. The initiative aims to democratize digital health technologies, featuring components such as a country needs tracker and a transformation toolbox. Union Health Minister Mandaviya highlighted its role in creating an institutional framework for digital health, while Bagchi emphasized India's digital response during the pandemic. WHO Director-General Dr Tedros emphasized GIDH's support in addressing health system fragmentation and overlap, promoting global digital health standards.

182. Kapilavastu Relic, recently mentioned in the news, is associated with which one of the following?

- [A] Adi Shankaracharya
- [B] Goswami Tulsidas
- [C] Mahavir
- [D] Buddha

Answer: Buddha

Four bone fragments of Lord Buddha, known as Kapilvastu Relics, discovered by William Claxton Peppé in 1898 at Piprahwa, Uttar Pradesh, will be taken to Thailand after 30 years. The relics were excavated from the ancient city of Kapilavastu. According to Buddhist



beliefs, Buddha attained salvation in Uttar Pradesh's Kushinagar at the age of 80, and his relics were divided among different communities to erect stupas, with Ashoka later enshrining them in numerous stupas to spread Buddhism.

183. Faiz Fazal, who recently seen in the news, is associated with which sports?

- [A] Wrestling
- [B] Badminton
- [C] Football
- [D] **Cricket**

Answer: Cricket

Esteemed Vidarbha cricketer Faiz Fazal, aged 38, has announced his retirement from all forms of the game, marking the end of a remarkable career. Fazal leaves behind a significant legacy with immense contributions to Vidarbha cricket, celebrated for generations. The Vidarbha cricket team, representing eastern Maharashtra, participates in India's domestic tournaments, including the Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy, and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

184. Which Indian cricketer has been appointed as a state icon by Punjab Chief Electoral Officer for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections?

- [A] Harbhajan Singh
- [B] **Shubman Gill**
- [C] Virat Kohli
- [D] Arshdeep Singh

Answer: Shubman Gill

Punjab Chief Electoral Officer Sibin C has named Indian cricketer Shubman Gill as the state icon for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Gill will participate in various election campaigns to raise voter awareness and increase turnout in the state. Punjabi singer Tarsem Jassar has also been selected as a "state icon" and will conduct similar campaigns.

185. Which day is celebrated as International Mother Language Day?

- [A] 20 February
- [B] **21 February**
- [C] 22 February
- [D] 23 February

Answer: 21 February

On February 21, 2024, International Mother Language Day is celebrated globally, acknowledging linguistic diversity. Originating in Bangladesh, the day emphasizes the historical movement for linguistic rights. In 2024, the theme is "Multilingual education – a pillar of learning and intergenerational learning," underscoring the importance of linguistic education. This Wednesday marks a special occasion to recognize and celebrate the significance of mother languages worldwide.

186. Ameen Sayani, who passed away recently, was associated with which profession?

- [A] Scientist



[B] Politician

[C] Radio Presenter

[D] Cricketer

Answer: Radio Presenter

Renowned Indian Radio Presenter Ameen Sayani, born on December 21, 1932, in Mumbai, passed away at 91 on February 21, 2024, succumbing to heart failure. Known as a Radio Celebrity, his iconic presentation 'Geetmala' earned immense popularity, showcasing his charming voice and unique style. A key figure in popularizing radio in India, Sayani's witty and captivating communication style left a lasting impact. Introduced to All India Radio by his brother, he transitioned from English to Hindi programming during his illustrious career.

187. Khajuraho Dance Festival, recently seen in the news, is associated with which state?

[A] Uttar Pradesh

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Rajasthan

[D] Gujarat

Answer: Madhya Pradesh

The 50th Khajuraho Dance Festival, 2024, commenced on February 20, inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. Scheduled until the 26th, the festival features diverse classical dance styles performed by over 1500 Kathak artistes. Originating in 1975, the festival is organized by the Ustad Alauddin Khan Academy of Music and Arts, promoting various dance forms and drawing renowned artists like Padmashree Ranjana Gauhar and Pandit Rajendra Gangani, aiming to boost tourism in Madhya Pradesh.

188. Recently, how much amount of the development assistance loan has Japan committed to India?

[A] JPY 232.2 billion

[B] JPY 225.2 billion

[C] JPY 230.3 billion

[D] JPY 239.3 billion

Answer: JPY 232.2 billion

Japan has pledged JPY 232 billion for nine projects in India, as confirmed by the exchange of notes on February 20, 2024, between Vikas Sheel of the Indian Ministry of Finance and Suzuki Hiroshi, the Japanese Ambassador. The committed ODA loan assistance covers various initiatives, including the Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge, NH 127B (Phulbari-Goeragre section), start-up promotion in Telangana, Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (Phase 2), sustainable horticulture in Haryana, climate change response in Rajasthan, medical facilities in Nagaland, urban water supply in Uttarakhand, and the Dedicated Freight Corridor Project.

189. 'Sammakka Saralamma Jatara' tribal festival, recently seen in the news, is celebrated in which state?



[A] **Telangana**

[B] Karnataka

[C] Kerala

[D] Tamil Nadu

Answer: Telangana

Mulugu, Telangana is gearing up for the grand celebration of Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara, the largest Tribal Festival in Asia. The event, held at Medaram village in Telangana, showcases the rich tribal heritage of the region. Located 240 km from Hyderabad, the festival signifies unity and cultural devotion, drawing visitors globally. Started as a small gathering, it gained State festival status in 1998, commemorating the 12th-century revolt by Sammakka and Saralamma against oppressive taxes during a drought by Kakatiya rulers.

190. The Nilgiri marten, recently seen in the news, is endemic to which one of the following regions in India?

[A] **Western Ghats**

[B] Eastern ghats

[C] Wetlands

[D] Grasslands

Answer: Western Ghats

The Tamil Nadu Government has launched the "TN Endangered Species Conservation Fund" to protect lesser-known species like the Nilgiri Marten. This rare carnivore, scientifically named *Martes gwatkinsii*, is exclusive to the Western Ghats in India, spanning Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Found in Shola ecosystems, it boasts chocolate-colored fur and a canary yellow throat, resembling a civet or mongoose. The conservation effort focuses on its habitat in high altitudes (300 to 1200 m) across specific Western Ghats clusters.

191. Recently, scientists discovered the world's largest snake in which forest?

[A] **Amazon Rainforest**

[B] Congo Rainforest

[C] Atlantic Rainforest

[D] Southeast Asian Rainforest

Answer: Amazon Rainforest

In February 2024, scientists uncovered the world's largest anaconda in the Amazon rainforest—a colossal Northern Green Anaconda. Discovered by TV wildlife presenter Professor Freek Vonk during a National Geographic expedition, this previously unknown snake measures 26 feet, weighs 200 kg, and boasts a head the size of a human's. Featured in National Geographic's Disney+ series 'Pole to Pole' with Will Smith, the snake has been named 'Eunectes akayima' by researchers, solidifying its status as the planet's largest and heaviest snake.

192. Recently, which cricketer made fastest 10000 runs in T20?



- [A] Rohit Sharma
- [B] Babar Azam
- [C] Travis Head
- [D] Rishabh Pant

Answer: Babar Azam

Babar Azam, former Pakistan captain, set a historic record as the fastest batter to score 10,000 runs in T20 cricket during a Karachi Kings vs. Peshawar Zalmi match in PSL 2024. This remarkable feat makes him the 13th player to achieve this milestone, adding another accolade to his illustrious career.

193. AIIMS Jammu was recently established under which government scheme?

- [A] Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
- [B] Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS)
- [C] Ayushman Bharat Yojana
- [D] Universal Health Insurance Scheme

Answer: Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana

AIIMS Vijaypur in Jammu is founded under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, addressing regional healthcare imbalances. The scheme aims to enhance affordable tertiary healthcare services and improve medical education facilities across India. This initiative reflects a commitment to ensuring accessible and quality healthcare infrastructure throughout the country.

194. How many gold medals did India win in the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships?

- [A] Three
- [B] Four
- [C] Two
- [D] Five

Answer: Three

India has won three gold medals and one silver medal at the 2024 Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Tehran, Iran. On the opening day of the championships, the following athletes won gold medals: Tajinderpal Singh Toor: Ace shot putter Jyothi Yarraji: 100m hurdler Harmilan Bains: 1500m

195. Recently, which country contributed \$1 million to the IBSA fund for poverty and hunger alleviation?

- [A] Brazil
- [B] India
- [C] South Africa
- [D] Russia

Answer: India

In February 2024, India contributed \$1 million to the India, Brazil, and South Africa (IBSA) Fund for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation. India has been a regular contributor to the fund since its inception, contributing a total of \$15.1 million. The IBSA Fund's projects aim to



help partner countries in the Global South achieve their national priorities and other internationally agreed development goals.

196. Which state legislative assembly recently passed a bill that prohibits hookah bars in the state?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Rajasthan
- [D] **Karnataka**

Answer: Karnataka

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly passed a bill prohibiting hookah bars in the state, imposing imprisonment of 1-3 years and fines up to Rs 1 lakh for violations. The bill also bans tobacco products in public places, sale near educational institutions, and to those under 21. Titled the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2024, it amends the 2003 central act in the state. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao stressed protecting youth's health and preventing tobacco-related diseases, citing hookah's glamorization among the youth.

197. Where was the 28th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) held?

- [A] Lucknow
- [B] Bengaluru
- [C] **New Delhi**
- [D] Chennai

Answer: New Delhi

Union Finance Minister chaired the 28th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) in New Delhi. FSDC, established in 2010, is a non-statutory apex body under the Ministry of Finance. Proposed by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008, it includes key financial institutions like RBI, IRDA, SEBI, and PFRDA, with members including the Finance Secretary, Chief Economic Advisor, and Secretary of the Department of Financial Services.

198. What is theme of the 'World Thinking Day 2024'?

- [A] Stand Together for Peace
- [B] **Our World, Our Thriving Future**
- [C] Our Planet, Our Peaceful Future
- [D] Living Threads

Answer: Our World, Our Thriving Future

World Thinking Day, celebrated on February 22, strengthens the bonds of friendship and sisterhood among young girls globally. It focuses on empowering young women, recognizing their immense potential. The day aims to break barriers and elevate the status of women through friendship and empowerment. This year's theme is "Our World,



Our Thriving Future," emphasizing the need for a supportive global community. Funds raised on this day contribute to the empowerment and development of around 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide.

199. Recently, which institute has launched the India's largest drone pilot organization?

- [A] IIT Bombay
- [B] IIT Guwahati
- [C] IIT Roorkee
- [D] IIT Kanpur

Answer: IIT Guwahati

The Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT-G) has launched India's largest drone pilot training facility. This program is aligned with PM's Namaste Drone Didi initiative. The program is also tailored for a variety of defense personnel. This initiative supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to position India as a prominent drone hub by 2030.

200. Ancient Badami Chalukya temples were recently discovered in Mudimanikyam village along the banks of which river?

- [A] Godavari River
- [B] Kaveri River
- [C] Krishna River
- [D] Tapi River

Answer: Krishna River

Two Badami Chalukya temples, aged 1,300-1,500 years, and a 1,200-year-old label inscription were discovered in Mudimanikyam village, Telangana near the Krishna River. The Chalukyas ruled the Deccan from the 6th to 12th centuries, comprising the Badami Chalukyas and the sibling dynasties of the Western and Eastern Chalukyas. Pulakesi I founded the dynasty in 550, making Badami the capital. Pulakesi II expanded the empire, defeating Harsha and Vishnukundins, but later lost Vatapi to Pallava Narasimhavarman.

201. Kiru Hydel Project, recently seen in the news, is located in which state/UT?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Uttar Pradesh
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Jammu & Kashmir

Answer: Jammu & Kashmir

The CBI conducted raids related to alleged corruption in awarding a contract for the Kiru Hydel Project in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district, focusing on the former Governor. The Kiru Hydel Power Project is a run-of-the-river scheme over the Chenab River, developed by Chenab Valley Power Projects (CVPP), a joint venture between NHPC, JKSPDC, and PTC. The project aims to benefit several states and union territories in Northern India, with a 49%, 49%, and 2% shareholding, respectively.

202. What is 'Tupolev Tu-160M', recently mentioned in the news?

- [A] Hypersonic ballistic missile



[B] Strategic missile-carrying bomber

[C] Asteroid

[D] Exoplanet

Answer: Strategic missile-carrying bomber

The recently unveiled Tupolev Tu-160M, dubbed "White Swan" in Russia and "Blackjacks" by NATO, is a modernized supersonic strategic bomber. Russia claims it to be the world's fastest and heaviest payload-carrying bomber, designed for long-range nuclear and conventional strikes. With a 12,000km non-stop range, the Tu-160M features advanced navigation, radar, and in-flight refueling capabilities. It carries 12 cruise or short-range nuclear missiles, operated by a four-member crew, and powered by four afterburning turbofan engines.

203. Which country is hosting the 5th edition of the International Gita Mahotsav (IGM) 2024?

[A] India

[B] Myanmar

[C] Sri Lanka

[D] Nepal

Answer: Sri Lanka

The International Gita Mahotsav (IGM), rooted in India's spiritual and cultural heritage, expands to Sri Lanka for its fifth edition from March 1 to 3. With past editions in Mauritius, London, Canada, and Australia, the Mahotsav's global appeal is evident. The event aims to unite devotees worldwide, showcasing the universal significance of the Bhagavad Gita.

204. Which two ministries have recently collaborated to launch an initiative focused on the health of tribal students?

[A] Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health

[B] Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

[C] Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Tribal Affairs

[D] Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture

Answer: Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Tribal Affairs

The Ministry of AYUSH and Ministry of Tribal Affairs collaborate to enhance public health for over 20,000 tribal students. The joint effort emphasizes Ayurvedic interventions to tackle health issues, including malnutrition, iron deficiency anemia, and sickle cell diseases. The initiative aims to study tribal health needs and provide targeted public healthcare services for improved well-being.

205. Government has recently launched Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana for which one of the following?

[A] AB PM-JAY beneficiaries

[B] PM Suraksha Bima Yojana beneficiaries

[C] PM SVANidhi beneficiaries

[D] PM Vishwakarma Yojana beneficiaries



Answer: PM SVANidhi beneficiaries

The Rashtriya Udyamita Vikas Pariyojana is a National Entrepreneurship Development Project that aims to provide entrepreneurship training. The program is part of the Skill India Mission and is specifically tailored to beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme.

206. Manohar Joshi, who passed away recently, was former Chief Minister of which state?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Tamil Nadu

Answer: Maharashtra

Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra and ex-Lok Sabha Speaker, Manohar Joshi, passed away on February 23, 2024, at 86. He succumbed to a cardiac arrest at a Mumbai hospital at 3 am. Joshi, the first Shiv Sena leader to be Maharashtra's Chief Minister (1995-1999), also served as Lok Sabha Speaker from 2002 to 2004. His last rites will be held at Dadar cremation ground.

207. A team of conservationists recently discovered the nesting site of Cantor's giant softshell turtle on the banks of which river in Kerala?

- [A] Bhavani River
- [B] Kallada River
- [C] Chandragiri River
- [D] Periyar River

Answer: Chandragiri River

A team of conservationists led by the University of Portsmouth discovered the nesting site of the Cantor's giant softshell turtle on the banks of the Chandragiri River in Kerala, India. The discovery is the first-ever nesting evidence and discovery of a breeding population of this critically endangered species. The Cantor's giant softshell turtle (*Pelochelys cantorii*) is a native to the rivers of south and Southeast Asia. It is known for its rarity and secretive nature.

208. What is theme of the 8th Asia Economic Dialogue 2024?

- [A] Asia and the Emerging World Order
- [B] Global Trade and Finance Dynamics
- [C] Sustainable Economic Development
- [D] Geo-economic Challenges in an Era of Flux

Answer: Geo-economic Challenges in an Era of Flux

The theme of the 8th Asia Economic Dialogue (AED) 2024 is "Geo-economic Challenges in an Era of Flux". The conference will be held in Pune from February 29 to March 2, 2024. The AED is an annual geo-economics conference that will feature 46 speakers from 11 countries participating in 12 sessions over three days. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Pune International Centre are jointly hosting the event.

209. DURGA 2, a laser weapon, recently developed by which one of the following?



- [A] DRDO
- [B] ISRO
- [C] IIT Kanpur
- [D] NTRO

Answer: DRDO

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is developing a laser weapon called DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array). DURGA-2 is a 100-kilowatt, lightweight, directed-energy weapon (DEW). It can be used for land, naval, and air use. DURGA-2 can neutralise drone or ballistic missile attacks from the skies or even at the originating location. It can travel at the speed of light.

210. Statue of Unity, recently seen in the news, is located on the banks of which river?

- [A] Narmada River
- [B] Tapi River
- [C] Sabarmati River
- [D] Luni River

Answer: Narmada River

Dozens of exotic birds and animals, relocated to Gujarat's Sardar Patel Zoological Park near the Statue of Unity, have perished in the past two years. The 182-meter tall statue, dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, stands on Sadhu Bet Island, Gujarat, by the Narmada Dam. Constructed by Larsen & Toubro and designed by Ram V Sutar, the statue honors India's 'Iron Man'. The Gujarat government funded the INR 3,050-crore project, covering 20,000 square meters with a surrounding artificial lake of 12 square kilometers.

211. What was India's ranking in the global cybercrime report for 2023?

- [A] 79th
- [B] 80th
- [C] 85th
- [D] 84th

Answer: 80th

According to a 2023 report, India is the 80th most targeted country worldwide for cybercrime. The report states that 34% of Indian users were targeted by local threats in 2023, totaling 74 million incidents. In 2023, India has a national cybercrime rate of 129 per hundred thousand citizens. In the third quarter of 2023, India was ranked 10th globally for data breaches, with 369,000 leaked accounts.

212. Kali Tiger Reserve, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Tamil Nadu
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Kerala

Answer: Karnataka

Recently, 40 spotted deer were relocated from Mysuru Zoo to Kali Tiger Reserve's Panasoli



range. The spotted deer, or chital, are native to the Indian subcontinent and are prevalent in Indian forests. They inhabit subtropical grasslands and forests, with a lifespan of 20 to 30 years, standing at 35 inches tall and weighing 187 pounds. Only males have antlers, and they live in social herds of 10 to 50 individuals. The species is categorized as "Least Concern" on the IUCN Red List.

213. Recently, where was the 11th bilateral Consular Dialogue between India and the US held?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] California
- [C] Bengaluru
- [D] Chennai

Answer: New Delhi

The 11th bilateral Consular Dialogue between India and the US took place in New Delhi. The Indian delegation, led by Dr. K.J. Srinivasa, is hosting the US delegation led by Ambassador Rena Bitter. The dialogue is intended to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries on consular issues. The discussion includes topics such as: Extradition, Mobility of students and professionals, Safe and legal migration, Protection of vulnerable women and children and Enabling smooth travel of their respective nationals

214. Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation scheme, recently seen in the news, is associated with which state?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Gujarat
- [C] Maharashtra
- [D] Kerala

Answer: Odisha

Odisha's State Government has extended the KALIA scheme for three more years. The initiative aims to financially support small and marginal farmers, including sharecroppers and tenant farmers, through direct income transfers. The scheme, synchronized with PM-KISAN, provides a combined annual benefit of ₹10,000 to small and marginal farmers, comprising ₹6,000 from PM-KISAN and ₹4,000 from KALIA. Additionally, it offers various benefits such as scholarships for KALIA beneficiaries' children and livelihood packages for landless households.

215. Recently, which country was removed from the financial crime watch list of FATF?

- [A] UAE
- [B] Pakistan
- [C] Iran
- [D] Myanmar

Answer: UAE

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was removed from the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) "grey list" on February 23, 2024. The FATF is an intergovernmental organization



that sets global standards for combating illicit finance. The FATF placed the UAE under closer scrutiny in 2022, highlighting the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing involving banks, precious metals and stones as well as property. The FATF said the UAE had taken significant steps to address concerns from a 2022 FATF action plan and demonstrated political support for further action. As of February 2024, only the Democratic Republic of North Korea, Iran and Myanmar are mentioned in the FATF blacklist.

216. The first ever Maharashtra's 'MSME Defence Expo' is recently hosted in which city?

- [A] Amravati
- [B] Nashik
- [C] Pune
- [D] Satara

Answer: Pune

Over 500 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the defense sector are participating in Maharashtra's inaugural MSME Defence Expo in Pimpri-Chinchwad, Pune. Organized by the state government and inaugurated by Chief Eknath Shinde, the event showcases products developed for the Indian Armed Forces by these enterprises. The expo highlights the growing contribution of MSMEs to the defense industry, fostering innovation and collaboration in the region.

217. Shahpur Kandi Dam Project, recently mentioned in the news, is located on which river?

- [A] Ravi
- [B] Beas
- [C] Tapi
- [D] Krishna

Answer: Ravi

The completion of Shahpur Kandi barrage on the Punjab-Jammu and Kashmir border has stopped water flow from the River Ravi to Pakistan. Located downstream from the Ranjit Sagar Dam, the Shahpur Kandi Dam Project aims at power generation and irrigation in Punjab and J&K. Constructed by the Punjab government's irrigation department; it includes a 55.5 m high concrete gravity dam, a 7.70 km long hydel channel, two head regulators, and two powerhouses, with a total output capacity of 206 MW.

218. Which country's first fifth-generation aircraft, the KAAN, completed its maiden flight?

- [A] Turkey
- [B] Iran
- [C] Iraq
- [D] Malaysia

Answer: Turkey

Turkey's first fifth-generation aircraft, the KAAN, completed its maiden flight at the Akinci air base near Ankara. The 13-minute flight reached an altitude of 8,000 feet. The KAAN,



also known as TF and MMU, is a twin-engine, all-weather fighter jet being developed by Turkish Aerospace Industries and BAE Systems. It's designed to replace the Turkish Air Force's F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft and will be sold to other countries.

219. As per the recent report, what was the percentage increase in India's mineral production in December 2023?

[A] 5.1%

[B] 5.2%

[C] 5.3%

[D] 5.4%

Answer: 5.1%

According to the Indian government, India's mineral production increased by 5.1% in December 2023 compared to the same month in 2022. The index of mineral production for the mining and quarrying sector in December 2023 is 139.4, which is 5.1% higher than the same month in 2022.

220. 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' exercise, recently seen in the news, is conducted between which two countries?

[A] India & Japan

[B] India & Sri Lanka

[C] India & Egypt

[D] India & Australia

Answer: India & Japan

The 5th edition of Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' began at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan, India, lasting from February 25 to March 9, 2024. It involves the Indian Army and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, emphasizing joint tactical maneuvers in a simulated semi-urban setting. The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen military cooperation, aligning with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

221. Recently, Bihar state government signed an agreement with which bank to promote the startup ecosystem?

[A] SIDBI

[B] HDFC

[C] SBI

[D] NABARD

Answer: SIDBI

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the Bihar Startup Fund Trust (BSFT) signed an agreement to manage the Bihar Startup Scale-up Financing Fund (BSSFF). The agreement was signed by Pankaj Dixit, the Director of the Department of Industries for the Government of Bihar, and Arijit Dutt, the General Manager of SIDBI. The agreement aims to create a favorable environment for startups and turn Bihar into a startup hub. The collaboration will manage the fund as a Fund of Funds model. This means that the fund will contribute to SEBI registered Alternative Investment Funds,



which will then invest in startups.

222. Recently, which state established a special fund to save Purple Frog in the Western Ghats?

- [A] Odisha
- [B] Kerala
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] **Tamil Nadu**

Answer: Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu has established a special fund to conserve the Purple Frog, considered a 'living fossil' coexisting with dinosaurs. Acknowledged globally as one of the rarest frogs, it belongs to the Sooglossidae family and spends most of its life underground, emerging only during the monsoon for mating. With a distinct appearance, short hind legs, and preference for specific Western Ghats habitats, the Purple Frog is listed as Near Threatened by IUCN and under Schedule I of WPA, highlighting its conservation significance.

223. IIT Madras recently collaborated with which institution to develop 'Garbhini-GA2' AI model?

- [A] **Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)**
- [B] IIM Ahmedabad
- [C] IISc Bangalore
- [D] IIT Bombay

Answer: Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI)

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) and the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) in Faridabad recently developed an AI model called "Garbhini-GA2". The model can accurately determine the age of a fetus in pregnant women during the second and third trimesters. The model was developed as part of the GARBH-Ini program, a collaboration between the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) and THSTI. The model reduces error by almost three times compared to other methods.

224. Recently, where was the 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] California
- [C] **Abu Dhabi**
- [D] Paris

Answer: Abu Dhabi

The 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) started at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates from February 26 to 29, 2024. The conference will bring together trade ministers from around the world to review the multilateral trading system and chart the WTO's future



course. Priority items on the agenda include reforming the WTO's dispute settlement function and new disciplines to eliminate fisheries subsidies that encourage overfishing.

225. 'Savera', a program for early breast cancer detection, recently launched by which state?

- [A] Bihar
- [B] Madhya Pradesh
- [C] Rajasthan
- [D] Haryana

Answer: Haryana

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the "Savera" program, a pioneering initiative for early detection and prevention of breast cancer in women. Developed with the Medanta Foundation and Health Department, Savera utilizes visually impaired women's heightened tactile sensitivity for breast cancer screenings, enabling earlier detection of abnormalities and improving treatment outcomes.

226. Recently, which country aims to produce 1-5 lakh tonnes of hydrogen a year by 2030?

- [A] Iran
- [B] Malaysia
- [C] Vietnam
- [D] Iraq

Answer: Vietnam

Vietnam targets annual hydrogen production of 100,000-500,000 metric tonnes by 2030, a key element in its energy transition. The nation plans to scale up output to 10-20 million tonnes by 2050, incorporating green hydrogen, showcasing a strong commitment to sustainable energy initiatives and contributing to global decarbonization efforts.

227. NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd recently inaugurated its first solar project in which state?

- [A] Gujarat
- [B] Rajasthan
- [C] Odisha
- [D] Bihar

Answer: Rajasthan

NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd. (NTPC-REL) inaugurated its first solar project in Rajasthan. The 70 MW project is designed to produce 370 million units annually and is part of NTPC's renewable energy expansion strategy. NTPC is also developing India's largest floating solar power plant in Telangana.

228. What is the name of the payload by which Aditya L1 satellite detected solar wind impact of Coronal Mass Ejections?

- [A] Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)
- [B] Solar Ultra-violet Imaging Telescope (SUIT)
- [C] Aditya Solar wind Particle Experiment (ASPEX)
- [D] Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)



Answer: Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA)

The Plasma Analyser Package for Aditya (PAPA) payload on the Aditya-L1 satellite detected the impact of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) on solar wind. The PAPA payload is an energy and mass analyzer that measures solar wind electrons and ions. It contains two sensors, the Solar Wind Electron Energy Probe (SWEEP) and the Solar Wind Ion Composition Analyser (SWICAR).

229. Which one of the following recently introduced a 5 year multiple entry visa for Indian tourists to enhance travel and economic ties?

- [A] Onam
- [B] Dubai
- [C] Paris
- [D] Iraq

Answer: Dubai

Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism introduces a five-year multiple-entry visa to boost travel between India and the UAE. In response to a surge in Indian visitors, India is the leading source market for tourists in the region. The visa, processed in 2-5 days, allows a 90-day stay, extendable for another 90 days, totaling a maximum of 180 days within a year. This initiative aims to facilitate and encourage increased tourism between the two countries.

230. What is the purpose of the 'Purple Fest' recently inaugurated by President of India?

- [A] To promote women entrepreneurship
- [B] To empower the persons with disabilities
- [C] To showcase ancient culture
- [D] To celebrate lavender festival

Answer: To empower the persons with disabilities

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated 'Purple Fest' at Amrit Udyaan in Rashtrapati Bhawan. Organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, the event follows the success of the 'International Purple Fest, 2024' in Goa. Over ten thousand Divyangjan, along with their escorts, gathered for inclusive and interactive stalls focusing on accessibility, inclusion, and disability rights. Key activities include Amrit Udyaan visits, 'Know your Disabilities,' Purple Cafe, Purple Kaleidoscope, Purple Live Experience Zone, and Purple Sports.

231. Krishna Raja Sagara reservoir, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Tamil Nadu
- [D] Odisha

Answer: Karnataka

Bengaluru, known as the 'garden city,' faces its worst domestic water crisis. Over 30 localities receive water on a rotational basis every alternate day, with supply lasting only



30-45 minutes. The city, once abundant with 262 lakes, now has only 81 due to real estate development. The remaining lakes are at risk, impacting the city's water supply. The reliance on the Krishna Raja Sagara reservoir is strained by a weak monsoon, leading to water shortages and skyrocketing tanker prices. Community involvement is crucial for lake preservation.

232. Pankaj Udhas, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?

- [A] Politics
- [B] Sports
- [C] Singing
- [D] Scientist

Answer: Singing

Renowned Indian ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas passed away at 72 on February 26 at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital, succumbing to a prolonged illness. Born on May 17, 1951, in Gujarat, Udhas rose to fame in the 1980s and 1990s. Beyond his musical accomplishments, he was known for philanthropy, supporting causes like cancer awareness.

233. What is the theme of 'World NGO Day 2024'?

- [A] Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the SDGs
- [B] Building a More Equitable World
- [C] Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development
- [D] Celebrating Community Heroes

Answer: Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the SDGs

World NGO Day, celebrated annually on February 27, acknowledges the vital role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) globally. Over 89 countries and 6 continents participate. The day promotes active engagement in NGOs, advocates for collaboration between NGOs and public-private sectors, and raises awareness among the needy about the impactful work of NGOs. The 2024 theme, "Building a Sustainable Future: The Role of NGOs in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals," emphasizes their crucial contribution to global sustainability.

234. What is the name of the Sikkim's first railway station, recently inaugurated by Prime Minister of India?

- [A] Gangtok railway station
- [B] Namchi railway station
- [C] Rangpo railway station
- [D] Pelling railway station

Answer: Rangpo railway station

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Sikkim's first railway station in Rangpo, celebrating a historic moment for the state. The station's design, inspired by local culture and the Himalayan landscape, pays homage to Sikkim's rich traditions. This initiative is part of a nationwide effort, with over 2,000 rail infrastructure projects worth Rs



41,000 crore, aiming to transform transportation networks, promote connectivity, and drive economic development across the country.

235. Which state's tobacco growers recently received approval for a Rs 10,000 interest-free loan from the Centre?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Karnataka
- [D] Odisha

Answer: Andhra Pradesh

The Indian government has approved a one-time interest-free loan of Rs 10,000 for Andhra Pradesh tobacco growers affected by Michaung cyclonic rains during the 2023-24 crop season. The loan, from the Grower Welfare Fund of the Tobacco Board, aims to aid flue-cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco growers facing hardships. The cyclone damaged crops in Andhra Pradesh, affecting 20% of the 75,355-hectare planted area. Karnataka, another FCV tobacco-producing state, faces a drought, prompting the government to permit sales with waived penalties.

236. Mission Utkarsh, recently seen in the news, is associated with which one of the following disease?

- [A] Typhoid
- [B] Cholera
- [C] Anaemia
- [D] Japanese encephalitis

Answer: Anaemia

The Mission Utkarsh initiative, collaboration between the Ministries of Ayush and Women and Child Development, aims to combat anaemia. Launched in five aspirational districts initially, it focuses on elevating districts below national averages. The pilot phase targets improving anaemic status in adolescent girls (14-18 years) across states like Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan. Approximately 10,000 Anganwadi Centres in these districts will cover 95,000 girls, utilizing Ayush systems for a cost-effective and evidence-backed approach.

237. What is 'INDRA RV25: 240N', recently seen in the news?

- [A] Micro turbojet engine
- [B] Satellite
- [C] Asteroid
- [D] Exoplanet

Answer: Micro turbojet engine

Hyderabad-based Raghu Vamsi Machine Tools Private Limited unveiled its indigenous Micro Turbojet Engine, "INDRA RV25: 240N." Developed with support from IIT Hyderabad, this micro turbojet is designed for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), air taxis, jetpacks, and power generation. The engine, operating on the principle of accelerating air to produce



thrust, offers applications in various sectors. The fully indigenous technology marks a significant milestone in India's aerospace capabilities, showcasing the firm's expertise in turbojet engine development.

238. Which ministry has recently inaugurated the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) building at Noida?

- [A] Ministry of Home Affairs
- [B] Ministry of Agriculture
- [C] Ministry of Jal Shakti
- [D] Ministry of Defence

Answer: Ministry of Jal Shakti

The Union Minister of Jal Shakti inaugurated the Upper Yamuna River Board (UYRB) building in Noida. Established through a 1994 MoU among Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Delhi, UYRB oversees the Yamuna stretch from its origin to the Okhla Barrage in Delhi. As a subordinate office under the Ministry of Jal Shakti's Department of Water Resources, UYRB plays a crucial role in water management and collaboration among the mentioned states.

239. Neil Wagner, who recently retired from international cricket, is from which country?

- [A] New Zealand
- [B] Australia
- [C] South Africa
- [D] England

Answer: New Zealand

New Zealand fast bowler Neil Wagner announced his retirement from international cricket on February 27, 2024. Wagner, 37, made the decision after being told he would not be in the starting XI for the upcoming Test series against Australia. Wagner has played 64 tests for New Zealand and will finish fifth on New Zealand's list of all-time Test wicket-takers with 260 at an average of 37.

240. Ayutthaya city, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- [A] Thailand
- [B] Vietnam
- [C] Egypt
- [D] Sudan

Answer: Thailand

The Bihar Governor visited Thailand's Ancient City of Ayutthaya, named after Lord Ram's birth city in Ayodhya, India. Founded in 1350, it served as the Siamese Kingdom's second capital. Flourishing from the 14th to the 18th centuries, it was a global diplomatic and commercial hub on an island strategically located above tidal bores, protecting it from sea attacks. Burmese forces razed it in 1767, leaving an extensive archaeological site with advanced water management and monumental structures.



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